UNIFORMS OF THE SS

VOLUME 5

SICHERHEITSDIENST UND SICHERHEITSPOLIZEI 1931-1945

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Andrew Mollo

Windrow & Greene

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THE SECURITY SERVICE AND SECRET STATE POLICE

In June 1931, a meeting was arranged between the Reichsführer of the 14,000 strong SS, and a cashiered naval communications officer Reinhard Heydrich. Himmler was looking for someone to organise an SS counter-espionage service. Himmler accepted Heydrich, commissioned him in the SS with the rank of SS-Untersturmführer, and set him up in a small office in the Brown House, Munich.[1]

The embryo intelligence service was known as department 1c of the SS High Command (1c-Abteilung beim SS-Oberstab). In April 1932 the SA and SS were banned, and Heydrich's department became known as the Press and Information Service (Presse-und Informationsdienst—PID). Its function at this time was to track down anti-party elements, and keep watch on the opposition.[2]

After the removal of the ban on the 14th June, 1932, Heydrich as SS-Sturmbannführer and Leader of the Security Service (Leiter des Sicherheitsdienstes) with a staff of 7 civilians, set up in September an 1c desk in each SS district (Abschnitt).[3] In the spring of 1933 he centralised his personnel and informers, and set up his own territorial organisation which he controlled from a second floor flat at Türkenstrasse 23, Munich-Schwabing. Soon after the SD headquarters (Zentralstelle) was moved to a small villa at Zuccaliststrasse 4, Munich-Nymphenburg. Apparently so little money was available during this period that at one time the telephone was cut off for non-payment of the bill.[4]

During the state of emergency that followed the Reichstag fire on the 30th January, 1933, Hermann Göring was put in charge of the Prussian Ministry of the Interior. One of his first actions was to appoint Dr. Rudolf Diels head of Department 1a of the Berlin Police Headquarters which dealt with opposition to the republic.[5]

To make the task of dealing with opposition to the Hitler regime easier, a Prussian Ministerial Ordinance authorised the police to disregard paragraphs 14 and 41 of the Prussian Administrative Police law, which imposed restrictions on its powers. As if to underline its new found power and independence the Political Police moved out of its head-

A signed photograph of Reinhard Heydrich presented by him to Karl Hermann Frank, 1941. Heydrich wears non-regulation twisted cord on his tunic collar. (CTK Prague.)

quarters to Prinz-Albrecht-Strasse 8, which until recently had been the headquarters of the German Communist Party.[6]

Political tasks hitherto had been responsibility of the Land Criminal Police Office (Landeskriminalpolizeiamt—LKPA), but followed the law of the 26th April, 1933, this office was replaced by the Secret State Police Office (Geheimes Staatspolizeiamt—Gestapo), which was reorganised and enlarged "to deal with political police tasks in parallel with or in place of normal police authorities". In each governmental district (Regierungsbezirk) a Gestapo Regional Office (Staatspolizeistelle—Stapostelle) was set up, at first subordinate to, but later independant of the local government representative (Regierungspräsident). The next step was the law of the 30th November, 1933, which granted independance to the Gestapo and handed over to it all the functions previously carried out by the Ministry of the Interior. Finally in March, 1934, the Prussian Gestapo was finally separated from the rest of the state administration and was free to carry out its executive tasks as ordered by the Minister President of Prussia, without further interference from the civil authorities.[7]

Shortly after the Nazi takeover of power (Machtübernahme), Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler was appointed Acting Police President of Munich, and Reinhard Heydrich immediately took over the existing political desk of the Munich Criminal Police. On the 1st April Himmler was nominated the first Political Police Commander Bavaria. During the winter of 1933/4, Himmler succeeded in making himself head of the Political Police in all the German states (Länder).[8]

Hamburg	11.33
Lübeck	11.33
Mecklenburg-Schwerin	11.33
Württemberg	12.12.33
Baden	18.12.33
Hessen	20.12.33
Anhalt	20.12.33
Thüringen	12.12.33
Bremen	23.12.33
Braunschweig	1.34
Oldenburg	1.34
Sachsen	1.34
Schaumburg-Lippe	2. 6.34

On the 20th April 1934 Himmler became Deputy Chief and Inspector of the Secret State Police Office (Gestapa). Between the spring of 1934 and June 1936 these forces were gradually centralised and Himmler was able to co-ordinate political police activity in all states from his central command in Gestapo headquarters in Berlin, which with a staff of 607 officials and employers had become the highest authority in the country concerning political police matters.[9]

On the 9th June 1934 Hitler's deputy Rudolf Hess instructed that the Foreign Political Intelligence Service (Aussenpolitischer Nachrichtendienst) or the NSDAP was to be transferred to the Security Service of the RFSS (Sicherheitsdienst RFSS), and that "apart from the SD of the RFSS there will be no Party intelligence or counter-espionage service, not even in the form of an internal intelligence organisation for foreign policy purposes".[10]

The importance and influence of the SD in the early history of the Gestapo cannot be overestimated. As soon as Heydrich took over the Gestapa in April 1934, he re-organised it and placed as many of his SD men in positions where they could both observe the activities of the political police, and gain valuable experience.[11] Although the SD was to continue as a separate entity, it had neither the numbers nor the experience to replace the existing political police altogether. In fact what eventually happened was, that having taken over the political police forces throughout Germany, the SD became superfluous, and with the formation of the RSHA was almost completely absorbed into the Security Police. Its continued existence was due to Himmler wishing to retain his SD's unique and powerful position as the only party intelligence service. Equally important was its function as parent organisation for the fusion of SS and Police, when members of the

PREFACE

After three years as the internal information and espionage service of the Nazi party, the SD joined with the Secret State Police (Geheime Staatspolizei—Gestapo) and Criminal Police (Kriminalpolizei—Kripo) to form the Security Police (Sicherheitspolizei—Sipo). It was Himmler and Heydrich's ambition that the SD should swallow the Gestapo and Kripo, and that the Order Police (Ordnungspolizei—Opro) and SS should be unified to form a State Protection Corps (Staats—Schutzkorps), but it was never realised. The SD, lacking professional know-how, and the executive powers of the Gestapo was relegated to the intellectual role of compiling reports and advising on current opinion, and on more than one occasion there was talk of disbanding the SD altogether.

The deliberate complexity of the SD, and later Security Police organisation, and the vague extent of its powers were the means by which Heydrich extended his authority. For the historian the unravelling of this burocratic and legal entanglement is a vast undertaking, and it has not been attempted in this work. Those who wish to study the rise of the SD and its various unions to produce the Security Police should study Hans Buchheim's THE SS—INSTRUMENT OF DOMINATION, which is by far the most authoritative and easily read work readily available in the English language, and has, I must confess, formed the basis of much of what is written in the introductory chapter of this work.

Most emphasis has been placed on the history and organisation of those operational departments and organisations, which either belonged to, or were closely associated with the Security Police. For this reason such obscure units as the Grenz-Polizei, Selbstschutz and Drushina units have been covered in as much detail as documentary evidence allows, whereas the administrative and research departments of the RSHA and their sub-sections have only been listed.

I would like to thank Hugh Page Taylor, Philip Buss, B.A. (Hons.), F. Ollenschläger, Colonel C. M. Dodkins, C.B.E., D.S.O., Retd., Stanley Bozich, David Lee Delich, Jost W. Schneider, and the staff of the Wiener Library London for their invaluable assistance.

Frequent references are made in this work to documents which were collected and used as evidence in the Nuremberg trials and other post-war war crimes trials. Those used in this work bear the prefix NO for Nazi Organisation, NOKW for Nazi Oberkommando der Wehrmacht, and USSR for a document submitted by the Russians. Each prefix is followed by the document's number.

The Records of the Reichsführer-SS and Chief of the German Police are available from the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and are referred to by the series prefix RFSS/T-175 followed by the roll and frame number.

Unless otherwise stated all photographs and actual items used to illustrate this publication are from the author's collection.

Author's note to second edition

In many ways this volume was the most difficult of all to write because the uniforms — like the organisations themselves — overlapped those of the other branches of the SS covered elsewhere in this series. The basic uniform of the SD and Sicherheitspolizei was that of the Allgemeine-SS; but from 1936 there took place a gradual, relentless absorption of the Police by the SS. This had complicated repercussions in the areas of jurisdiction, uniform and rank assimilation. Many people still find it extremely difficult to unravel the complexities of the SS-Police empire that Himmler tried to create. Whilst there are many books about the SS, there is very little in print about the German Police; and it is my intention to continue this series with an eighth volume entitled 'Ordnungspolizei'.

In the meantime the following books published since 1971 should be of great help to interested readers: Aranson, Shlomo, THE BEGINNINGS OF THE GESTAPO SYSTEM—The Bavarian Model in 1933; Israel University Press, Jerusalem, 1969. Artzt, Heinz, 'MÖRDER IN UNIFORM — Organisationen, die zu Vollstreckern nationalsozialistischer Verbrechen wurden; Kindler Verlag, Munich, 1979. Hoffmann, Peter, HITLER'S PERSONAL SECURITY; The Macmillan Press Ltd., 1979. Sauer, Karl, DIE VERBRECHEN DER WAFFEN-SS — Eine Dokumentation der VVN-Bund der Antifaschisten; Röderburg Verlag GmbH, Frankfurt am Main, 1977.

Andrew Mollo
Sagonne 1992

Security Police were often brought under severe pressure to join the SS.

On the 30th January 1935 the Security Office (Sicherheitsamt) was re-organised as the Main Security Office (Sicherheitsdienst-Hauptamt).[12]

On the 17th June 1936, by decree of the Führer and Chancellor, the party post of Reichsführer-SS was formally amalgamated with the newly created governmental office of Chief of the German Police, and the process of unifying the German Police with the SS began. Himmler appointed Police General Kurt Daluege, Chief of the Order Police, and SS-Gruppenführer Reinhard Heydrich, Chief of the Security Police.[13]

Representatives of the German police as guests of the Italian Police Corps in Rome in October 1938. From L-R unidentified, SS-Stubaf. Heinrich Müller, Chef der Orpo, SS-Ogruf. Kurt Daluege, SS-Gruf. Reinhard Heydrich, and unidentified section leader (Abteilungsleiter).

The next step in the extension of Security Police powers was the appointment in October 1936 of Security Police Inspectors (Inspekteur der Sicherheitspolizei—IdS) in each military region (Wehrkreis). They were mainly intended to improve co-ordination between Criminal Police and Gestapo, but in so doing, they succeeded in undermining the traditional authority of the Police Presidents.[14]

On the 1st January 1937 the Security Service Main Office with 372 leaders and men was situated at 102 Wilhelmstrasse, Berlin, near the Secret State Police Office (Gestapa).[15]

On the 13th November 1937 the post of Senior SS and Police Leader was introduced by the Reichs/Prussian Minister of the Interior:

> "In the event of mobilisation it will be necessary to appoint a commander within each Military District (Wehrkreis) to take charge of all forces belonging to the Reichsführer-SS and Chief of the German Police (Orpo, Sipo and SS units)."[16]

Originally intended to come into being in the event of mobilisation the office of HSSPF (which in many ways duplicated that of the SS District Leader (SS-Oberabschnittführer)) was never truly established in Germany, but in occupied territories it wielded considerable power, being responsible for both political administration and the command of SS, police and Security Police forces as directed by the Reichsführer-SS.

By the 31st January 1938 the SD had 5050 regular and honorary members,[17] which by December 1938 had risen to 7230.[18]

On the 27th September 1939 the Security Police and Security Service were amalgamated to form the Reich Security Main Office (Reichssicherheitshauptamt—RSHA). Once again a governmental office, Chief of the Security Police, and the Nazi Party office, Chief of the Security Service were merged into a single post, Chief of the Security Police and Security Service (Chef der Sicherheitspolizei und des SD—CSSD).[19]

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In May, 1942, SS-Obergruppenführer Reinhard Heydrich was assassinated by British-trained Czech parachutists, and after considerable anxiety and indecision Himmler finally appointed SS-Ogruf.u.General der Pol. Ernst Kaltenbrunner as Chief of the RSHA and CSSD, on 1st January, 1943.

It was inevitable that sooner or later the SD would clash with the Military Intelligence Service (Abwehr) under Admiral Canaris, but it was not until Canaris was implicated in the 20th July, 1944, plot against Hitler that the Abwehr was handed over to the SS leaving the German, as the only major European army without its own intelligence service. Most of the Abwehr departments were absorbed into RSHA offices IV (Gestapo) and VI (Foreign Intelligence). Later a special Military Office (Militärisches Amt) under SS-Brigaf. Walter Schellenberg was formed to work closely with Amt VI.[20]

By the end of Summer 1944 the organisation of all German sabotage and political subversion had come under the control of one man, when SS-Ostubaf. Otto Skorzeny, already head of Amt VI S*, took over Mil. Amt D (previously Abwehr Abt. II). Skorzeny and his ex-Abwehr deputy Major Loos had their H.Q. in Schloss Friedenthal, Oranienburg near Berlin.

Section D of the Military Office was organised as follows:

Amt D S	Sabotage
Amt D J	Insurrection
Amt.Mil.D/T.	Supply of sabotage materials

Its functions were divided into two general types:

1. To threaten Allied lines of communication by sabotage and by fomenting political trouble in Germany and the former occupied territories, using for these purposes German nationals or Fascist and anti-Allied elements in the countries concerned.
2. To mount military operations of a special type which the regular army could not normally undertake.

To carry out such operations as the rescue of Mussolini, the attempted capture by airborne troops of Tito, and the abduction of Admiral Horthy. Skorzeny had at his disposal the SS-Jägerbataillon 502, which was later re-organised as the SS-Jagdverbände which had H.Q.'s and training camps widely dispersed throughout Germany.

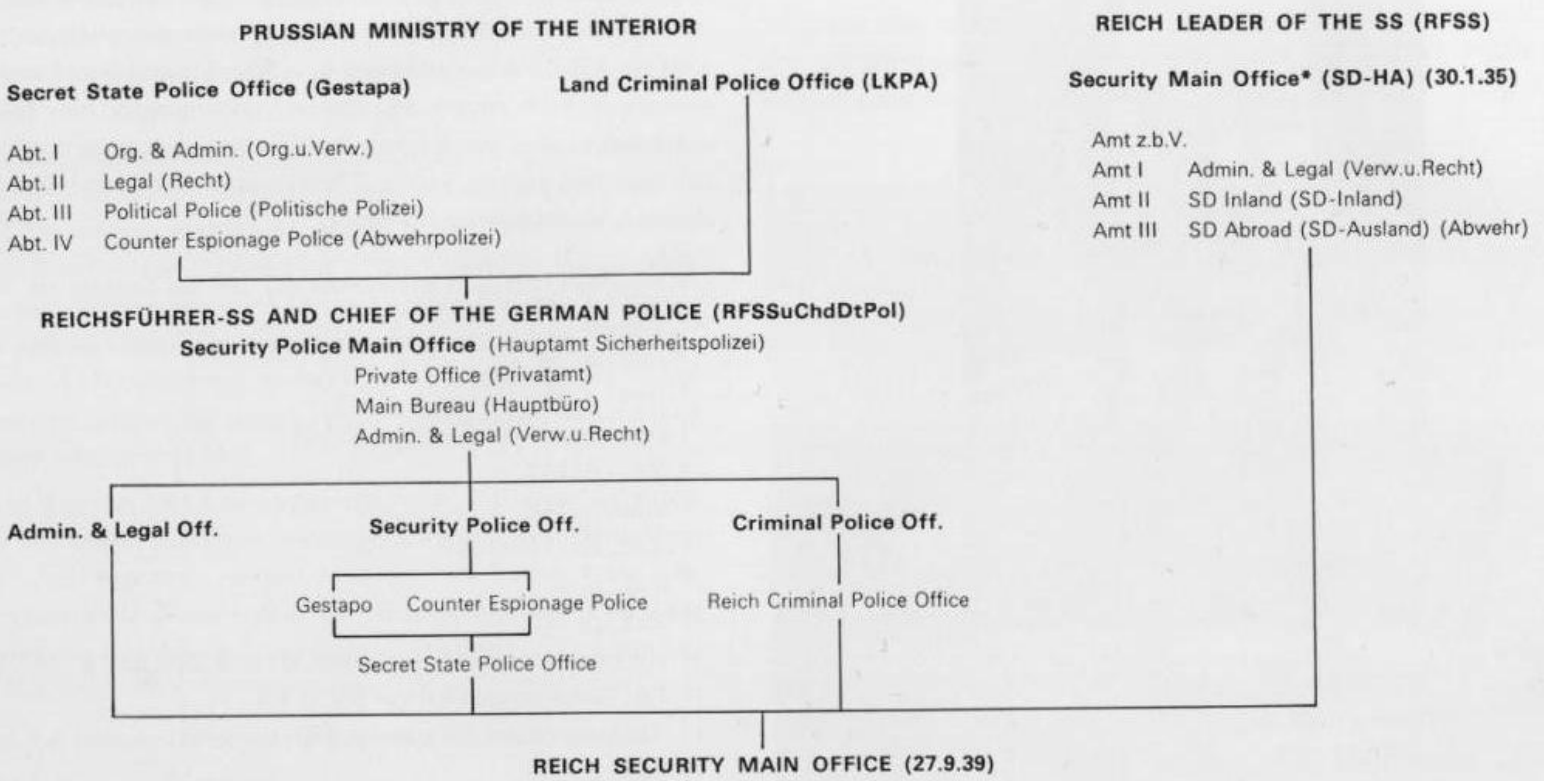
Chiefs of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt. From L-R: SS-Ostubaf. Huber, SS-Oberf. Nebe, chief of the Kripo, Reichsführer-SS Heinrich Himmler, SS-Gruf. Reinhard Heydrich, chief of the Sipo, and SS-Oberf Heinrich Müller. Contrary to regulations Heydrich wears two armbands. (Heinrich Hoffmann.)

SS-Obergruppenführer Dr. Ernst Kaltenbrunner, Heydrich's successor on the 1st January 1943, as Chief of the RSHA and CSSD. (Wiener Library.)

The last months of the war saw the final attempts of the rank and file of the Security Police to hold together the collapsing country, while their leaders, Himmler and Schellenberg made vain attempts to negotiate with the Allies. As the war drew to a close SD and Sipo furnished themselves with false papers and scurried underground, only to be flushed out again to face trial for their wartime activities or to continue in their old specialist roles as East and West prepared for what then seemed an almost unavoidable confrontation.

1 Heydrich und der Anfänge der SD und der Gestapo, p. 78.
2 Ibid., p.
3 Ibid., p. 70.
4 Ibid., p. 91.
5 Anatomy of the SS state, p. 145.
6 Ibid., p. 146.
7 Ibid., p. 146.
8 Ibid., pp. 149-151.
9 Ibid., p. 152.
10 Ibid., p. 179.
11 Heydrich und die Anfänge der SD und Gestapo, p. 297.
12 Der Sicherheitsdienst der SS, p. 53.
13 Anatomy of the SS state, p. 157.
14 Ibid., p. 185.
15 Der Sicherheitsdienst der SS, p. 53.
16 Anatomy of the SS state, p. 214.
17 Statistisches Jahrbuch der SS der NSDAP, 1938, p. 39.
18 Ibid., p. 39.
19 Anatomy of the SS state, p. 172.
20 Schellenberg memoirs, p. 412.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE REICH SECURITY MAIN OFFICE



October 1939

Amt I	Admin. pers. trng. and legal
Amt II	Investigation of opposition
Amt III	Spheres of German life
Amt IV	Gestapo***
Amt V	Combating of Crime
Amt VI	Foreign intelligence

1st March 1941

Amt I	Personnel, trng., org.
Amt II	Household, economics
Amt III	Spheres of German life
Amt IV	Gestapo
Amt V	Combating of crime
Amt VI	Foreign intelligence
Amt VII	Ideological research and evaluation

1944

Amt I	Personnel
Amt II	Org., Admin. & Legal
Amt III	Spheres of German life
Amt IV	Gestapo****
Amt V	Combating of crime
Amt VI	Foreign intelligence
Mil.Amt	Military office (Abwehr)
Amt VII	Ideological research and evaluation
Amt N	Communications
Amt S	Medical

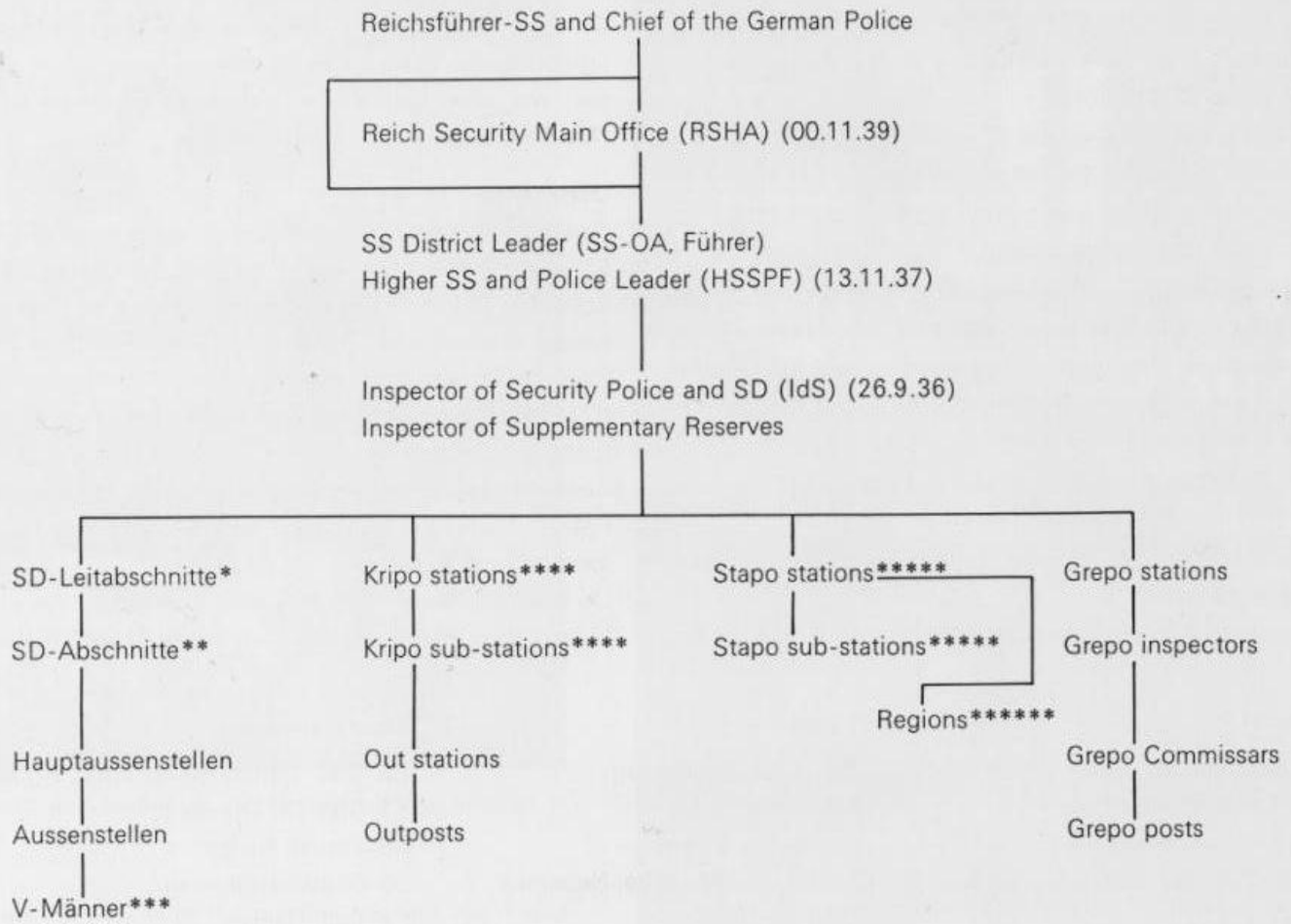
* As at January, 1937.

** At first this office included Amt IV of Gestapo, but later it was transferred to Amt VI as Group (Gruppe) IV E.

*** Abt. II of Gestapa was transferred to Amt. IV.

**** From May, 1944 Amt IV took over almost all personnel and functions of Abwehr III, and small section of Abwehr III F was taken in to Amt VI.

SD AND GESTAPO CHAIN OF COMMAND AND REGIONAL ORGANISATION



* Stations in large towns, which prior to 23.9.39 were known as SD-Oberabschnitte

** Stations, which prior to 23.9.39 were known as SD-Unterabschnitte

*** Vertrauensmänner or informers.

**** From 20.9.36.

***** From 1.10.36.

****** A region (Bezirk) was a sub-division of an SS Supplementary reserve company (Stammabteilung).

SECURITY POLICE AND SD SCHOOLS

The professional training of the SD took place in the school at Bernau, near Berlin. Special courses were arranged and held by specialists from various departments in the RSHA.[1]

SD candidates coming directly from the Security Police received their training at the Leaders' School of the Security Police and SD in Berlin-Charlottenburg, and in special preparatory courses undertook the SS leaders' examination (SS-Führerprüfung).[2]

On the whole training was designed, during the war, to prepare an SD leader who could work both in the Gestapo and Kripo, but this was never fully achieved. SD leaders often volunteered or were seconded to the Gestapo or Kripo offices in order to gain experience.

Great importance was attached to communications and in the W/T school in Schloss Grünberg a standard of training was reached which was even higher than that of the armed forces.

In March 1941 the following schools existed under the inspectorship of SS-Brigaf. Streckenbach.[3]

By April 1943 the seven schools had been reduced to five. The Radio School in Nepomok moved to the Sipo School in Fürstenberg, and the Frontier Police School appears to have been closed altogether. Later in the war the Schools in Pretzsch were moved to Fürstenberg (Mecklenburg).

UNIFORM

Cadets and members of the staff wore normal black or field-grey SS service dress. Members of the staff and cadets of the Security Police School in Berlin-Charlottenburg are known to have worn an armband which is thought to have borne the inscription "Führerschule der Sicherheitspolizei" but there is no mention of such an armband in the RZM SS price lists until April 1938, when an arnband "Führer der Sicherheitspolizei" is listed as a new item. It is possible that this armband was worn by candidates in anticipation of their promotion to Security Police Leader, and that it was also worn by Security Police Leaders to identify them as such.[6]

On the 29th June 1939 Heydrich announced his intention to the SS Main Office, to introduce an armband FECHTSCHULE BERNAU for

School	Location	Commanders
Führerschule der Sipo und des SD*	Berlin-Charlottenburg	SS-Staf. Schultz/SS-Ostubaf. Hotzel
Sicherheitspolizeischule	Fürstenberg	SS-Staf. Dr. Trummler
Sicherheitsdienstschule	Bernau bei Berlin	SS-Stubaf. Nickol
Funkschule der Sipo und des SD	Schloss Grünberg bei Nepomok	SS-Stubaf. Hoffmann
Schiess-Schule	Zella-Mehlis	SS-Staf. Daniels
Sportschule	Pretzsch/Elbe	SS-Staf. Daniels
Grenzpolizeischule	Pretzsch/Elbe	
In April 1942 another Sipo and SD Leaders' School was opened in Prague:[4]		
Reichsschule der Sipo und des SD	Prag	SS-Ostubaf. Rabe (at present in action. Deputy, SS-Stubaf. Gornig)

A Security Police leader and cadets at the Security Police School in Berlin-Charlottenburg, 1938 (?).

members of the SD Fencing School in Bernau, but the fact that it was not included in the March 1941 SS price list suggests that it was never in fact introduced.[7]

1-2 Der Sicherheitsdienst der SS., p. 85.

3,5 Dienststellenverzeichnis der Sipo und des SD. Berlin, April 1942.

4 Original caption to photograph reproduced opp.

6 Mitteilungsblatt der RZM , Nr. 6, 25.4.38, p. 11.

7 Heydrich to the SS Main Office, 29th June 1939 re. Armband "Fechtschule Bernau". RFSS T-175 156/2687129.

The opening of the new Security Police School in Prague in April 1942. Heydrich talks to Bruno Streckenbach while SS-Oberführer Erwin Schulz stands in the background. The original picture caption refers to the school as 'Reichsschule für Detusche Schutzpolizei'.

SS-STAMMABTEILUNG

In 1935 members of the SS over 45 years of age, whose continued activity in the SS was considered to be of value were formed into a Supplementary Reserve. Each reserve was sub-divided into precincts (Bezirke), which worked in conjunction with an SS regiment (Standarte). The reserves were directly subordinated to the SS district (SS-Oberabschnitt) headquarters, and supervised by an inspector, e.g. Inspekteur der Stammabteilung Südost.

Beneath the surface this organisation had more important tasks than providing "old comrades" with something to do in their spare time. It appears that the companies contained a number of "inactive" young leaders whose duties to the state debarred them from taking a more active part in the SS, but whose membership and moral allegiance made them an indispensable source of information to the SD Regional Commander (SD-Leitabschnittsführer), who was also Inspector of reserves in his region.

UNIFORM

Members of the Supplementary Reserve Companies wore the standard black SS service uniform with silver-grey collar patches and armband. On the collar patch was embroidered in black silk the number of the regiment to which the reserve company was attached, and on the armband the name of the district to which it was subordinated. Leaders had aluminium embroidery instead of black. See Volume I, page 49, for further details.

SS-HILFSGRENZANGESTELLTE
SS-GRENZÜBERWACHUNG
GRENZPOLIZEI DER GEHEIMEN STAATSPOLIZEI
VERSTÄRKTER GRENZAUFSICHTSDIENST

On the 1st July 1933 it was ordered that the Frontier Customs Service (Grenzzolldienst) was to be re-inforced on all German frontiers with SS men, and accordingly 2,400 were appointed auxiliary frontier personnel (Hilfsgrenzangestellte—Higa).[1] All regular customs officials who were members of the SS were drafted into these units which were financed by the SS under the heading SS reserve.

Higa battalions were located in the SS districts South, South-West, Rhine, South-East, Elbe and Main, and in February 1935 a Higa company was formed in the SS Main Office.[2]

In December 1935 by agreement with the Reichsminister of Finance the Gestapo was made responsible for the political control of the German frontier, and the resulting increased personnel requirement was met by the SS. SS personnel were formed into SS Frontier Observation Units (SS-Grenzüberwachung—SSG).[3] In Bavaria a Frontier Company (Grenzsturm) was attached to the SS Collection Point (SS-Sammelstelle) which had been set up to collect members of the illegal Austrian Nazi Party who fled across the frontier into Germany.[4] The company was formed along military lines with a cadre provided by the Political Readiness Squad Reutlingen (see Volume 3, pp. 2 and 9).

By 1937 the total strength of Higa units was 1,495,[5] and in December 1938 1,565 men.[6]

In April 1936 an office of the Inspector of Frontier and Guard Units (Inspekteur der Grenz-und Wacheinheiten) was established in the SS Main Office under SS-Ogruf. Krüger.

In May 1937 the Chief of the Security Police (Heydrich) was made the sole authority on all frontier police matters, and executive responsibility was delegated to the Gestapo. In October 1937 SS Frontier Observation Units were made into the Frontier Police (Grenz-Polizei) with a strength of 185 men under Section III of the Secret State Police office (Abteilung III Gestapa).[7]

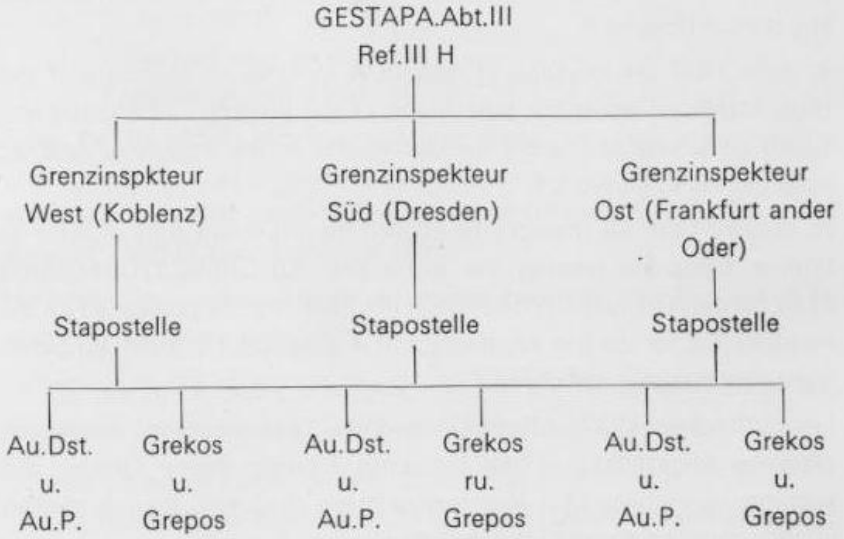
After the annexation of Austria Higa units in SS district South were disbanded on the 1st April 1938.[8]

The frontier between German and Russian-occupied Poland was controlled exclusively by the Gestapo and a specially formed force of 400 mounted Gestapo agents patrolled the frontier under the command of SD officers in SD Service offices and Frontier Police Commissariats.[9]

As more and more frontiers became fighting fronts the Frontier Police of the Secret State Police was reduced and believed to have been disbanded altogether by October 1941.[10]

1 Das Schwarze Korps., No. 25., 21.8.35., p.2.
2 Statistisches Jahrbuch der SS., 1938., p.55.
3 Anatomy of the SS State., p.243.
4 RFSS T-175 155/2685072.
5 Statistisches Jahrbuch der SS., 1937., p.36.
6 Statistisches Jahrbuch der SS., 1938., p.55.
7 Anatomy of the SS State., p.244.
8 Statistisches Jahrbuch der SS., 1938., p.55.
9 Der Sicherheitsdienst der SS., p.201.
10 Anatomy of the SS State., p.247.

GESTAPO FRONTIER CONTROL CHAIN OF COMMAND AND REGIONAL ORGANISATION



KEY Gestapa = Geheime Staatspolizeiamt = Secret State Police Off.

Abt.III	Abteilung III	Section III
Ref.III H	Referent III H	Expert III H
	Grenzinspekteur	Frontier Inspector
Stapostelle	Staatspolizeistelle	State Police Station
Au.Dst.	Aussendienststelle	Out station
Au.P.	Aussenposten	Out post
Grekos	Grenzpolizeikommissariats	Frontier Police Commissariats
Grepos	Grenzpolizeiposten	Frontier Police Posts

UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

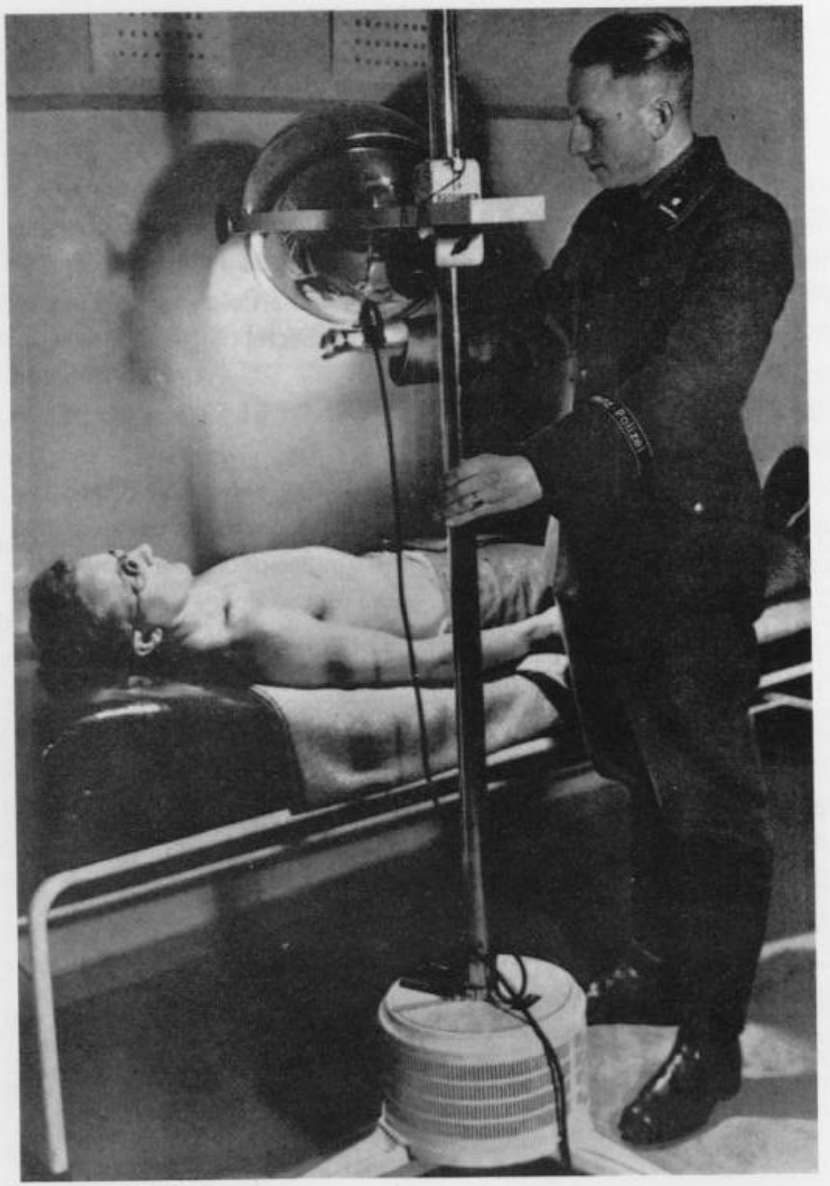
From 1933 until the formation of the Frontier Police in October 1937, SS auxiliary customs personnel wore the black SS service uniform without any special insignia.[1]

In June 1937 the question of distinctive insignia for members of the Higa. battalions under the jurisdiction of the Inspector of Frontier and Guard units was still under discussion and in the meantime existing insignia was to be worn.[2]

In January 1939 SS District Elbe applied for distinctive armbands for its frontier battalions bearing the inscription SS-GRENZSTURMBANN ELBE for the staff, and SS-GRENZSTURMBANN ELBE preceeded by the numbers 1-5 for the five battalions, but it is doubtful if these armbands were ever actually authorised.[3]

From October 1937, officials, candidate officials and employees (Kriminal-Angestellte) of the following Frontier Police Offices and stations were obliged to wear service dress on duty, although civilian clothes could be worn if considered necessary.[4]

1. Customs Inspector Generals (In RSHA)
2. Customs Inspectors
3. Frontier Police Commissariats
4. Frontier Police Posts and Out-stations



Member of the Frontier Police of the Gestapo in service dress, 1938.

The uniform of the Frontier Police was the field-grey service uniform of the Security Police, which was worn with the armband GRENZ-POLIZEI, on the lower left cuff. The basic issue of uniform and equipment consisted of the following articles:[5]

1 Peaked cap*
1 Field cap
1 Service tunic
1 Pr. breeches
1 Greatcoat
1 Raincoat
1 Drill tunic
1 Pr. drill breeches
2 Brown shirts
1 Black tie
1 Pr. gloves
1 Pr. long boots
1 Waist belt with accessories
1 Portepee or sword knot

* It appears that a black peaked cap with white piping was worn with the field-grey uniform as late as 1939. See photographs in the publication "Jederzeit einsatzbereit".

Grenz-Polizei officers' armband. (Dodkins Collection)

From the beginning auxiliary customs personnel were armed and a photograph in "Das Schwarze Korps" shows a frontier guard (Grenzwächter) of the 34th Foot Regiment (Munich)* carrying binoculars and a model 1896 Mauser automatic pistol.[6]

By 1935 Higa personnel were being issued with 98 carbines and rifles, and 7.65 automatic pistols.[7]

* This particular guard is wearing the "traditional uniform" consisting of kepi and brown shirt, and over his shoulders a fawn raincoat.

1 Das Schwarze Korps., No.25., 21.8.35., p.2.
2 Der Reichsführer-SS., Az. B 23 d/18.6.37., Betr.: Dienstabzeichen der Allgemeinen SS. Berlin, den 18.6.37.
3 SS-OA Elbe an den Chef des SS-Hauptamtes, Dresden, den 12.1.39., Betr.: Spiegel und Ärmelstreifens der Einheiten des SS-Grenzsturmbanns Elbe.
4 Bekleidungsvorschrift für die Grenzpolizei der Sicherheitspolizei. Befehlsblatt des Chefs d.Sich.Pol.u.d.SD.Nr.4/42., s.21-22. See also RFSS T-175 238/2726976-7.
5 Ibid.
6 Das Schwarze Korps., No.2., 9.1.36., p.3.
7 See correspondence between SS-Hauptamt and SS-OA Rhein, 30. 1.35. See RFSS T-354 414/4132351.

RFSS KOMMANDO z.b.V.
STAB RFSS KRIMINAL-KOMMANDO

The SS was originally created as a bodyguard force for Hitler and leading members of his party, and until 1934 two of the first SS men, Julius Schaub and Julius Schreck, together with others, continued to be responsible for the Führer's life.

In 1934 the responsibility for Hitler's protection was transferred from a few trusted veterans of the early years of Nazism a more sophisticated section of the Security Police, the Reich Security Service (Reichssicherheitsdienst-RSD). The RSD maintained permanent sections (Dienststellen). Dienststelle I was at Obersalzberg (later in Berlin) and consisted of Hitler's personal guard under SS-Staf.Hoegl[1]. Dienstellen II and III were known as the Führer Escort Commando. The commander of the RSD was SS-Brigaf.Rattenhuber and his personnel consisted, in the most part, of experienced professional detectives from the Criminal Police.

At first these sections were known collectively as the RFSS Special Purpose Commando (RFSS Kommando z.b.V.), with some 15 leaders, and presumably other ranks.[3] In 1936 it was renamed RFSS Staff Criminal Kommando (Stab RFSS Kriminal-Kommando) with a permanent establishment of 50 leaders[4]. It is thought that by this date the RSD had assumed responsibility for the personal safety of other leading Nazis. Göring is known to have had 15 men assigned to him.

Rattenhuber, whose centre of operations was always at Hitler's headquarters (Führer-Hauptquartier), continued to be responsible for Hitler's safety until the end of the war, and on 30th April 1945 it was members of his commando who witnessed the disposal of Hitler's corpse in the gardens of the Reichs Chancellery.

1 The Last Days of Hitler., p.194.
2 Guides to German Records microfilmed at Alexandria, VA.No.39 p VI
3 Dienstalterliste der SS., 1934.
4 Dienstalterliste der SS., 1936.
5 Last Days of Hitler., p.194.

Himmler greets members of Hitler's Escort Commando. L-R, SS-Staf. (Later SS-Brigaf.) Hans Rattenhuber, Himmler, SS-Stubaf. Kempka. (Heinrich Hoffmann.)

SS-BEGLEITKOMMANDO DES FÜHRERS (FÜHRER-BEGLEITKOMMANDO)

While the RSD tracked down and apprehended any anti-party or dissaffected elements who might wish to assassinate Hitler, the Escort Commando was responsible for protecting him against spontaneous or surprise attempts at assassination or abuse on state occassions, journeys and public appearances. In addition to the permanent escort, which consisted mainly of his detectives, chauffeurs and personal attendants,

extra personnel could be drawn from his Bodyguard Regiment and the various SS main offices.

It appears that in 1940 a regular escort consisting of smart Waffen-SS men who had served at the front, was formed under the command of SS-Ostuf. Franz Schädle.[1]

On the 28th September 1939 Hitler ordered the formation of the Führer Escort Battalion, an army unit, under the command of General Erwin Rommel. The battalion guarded the perimeter and approaches to Hitler's field headquarters, such as Rastenburg, while the SS continued to be responsible for internal security

[1] The Last Days of Hitler., p.194.

Members of Hitler's Escort Commando, drawn from his personal Bodyguard Regiment and the SS Main Office; September 1939. (Heinrich Hoffmann.)

Hitler greets his personal chauffeur SS-Stubaf. Erich Kempka. On Kempka's right SS-Stubaf Gesch, and on his left SS-Hstuf. Schädle, commander of Hitler's Escort Commando. (Heinrich Hoffmann.)

EINSATZGRUPPEN DER SICHERHEITSPOLIZEI EINSATZGRUPPEN DER SICHERHEITSPOLIZEI UND DES SD

When Germany annexed Austria, Security Police and Gestapo agents working in conjunction with the Austrian police under the pro-German, Nazi Minister of the Interior Dr. Seyss-Inquart immediately carried out actions against prominent anti-German Austrians and subversives.

For the invasion of Czechoslovakia specially formed Action Staffs (Einsatzstäbe) were formed to co-ordinate SD, Security Police and Order Police personnel and units in their special tasks. Two staffs were set up, "K" under SS-Oberf. Jost for Prague, and "L" under SS-Staf. Dr. Stahlecker for Brno. Each Staff consisted of an SD and Gestapo expert (Referent), Czech-speaking interpreters, specialists and technical personnel, and 5 Action Commandos (Einsatzkommandos-EK)* with 1 in reserve.[1]

Having proved successful in Czechoslovakia the system was developed and enlarged for the invasion of Poland in September 1939. Six Special Action Groups were formed and attached to each of the five armies taking part in the invasion, as well as one for the province of Posen.

* In the event of resistance from "Franc-Tireurs" and partisans during the opening stages of the operation, Action Group personnel were to be armed with carbines, pistols, hand grenades, gasmasks, and light machine guns.[2]

SS-Gruf. Heydrich and commander of a Special Action Group during the invasion of Poland, September 1939.

Special Action Group order of battle for the invasion of Poland[3]

Unit	Army	Commander
Einsatzgruppe I	14. Armee	SS-Brigaf. Streckenbach
Einsatzkommando 1/I		SS-Stubaf. Dr. Hahn
Einsatzkommando 2/I		SS-Stubaf. Müller
Einsatzkommando 3/I		SS-Stubaf. Dr. Hasselberg
Einsatzkommando 4/I		SS-Stubaf. Dr. Brunner
(Also known as SS. Btl. Kreuder)		
Sonderkommando*		Krim. Komm. Schmer
Einsatzgruppe II**	10. Armee	SS-Ostubaf. Schäfer
Einsatzkommando 1/II		SS-Ostubaf. Sens
Einsatzkommando 2/II		SS-Stubaf. Rux
Einsatzgruppe III	8. Armee	SS-Stubaf. Fischer
Einsatzkommando 1/III		SS-Stubaf. Scharpwinkel
Einsatzkommando 2/III		SS-Stubaf. Dr. Liphardt
Einsatzgruppe IV	4. Armee (until 13.9.39)	SS-Brigaf. Beutel
Einsatzkommando 1/IV		SS-Stubaf. Dr. Bischoff
Einsatzkommando 2/IV		SS-Stubaf. Dr. Hammer
Einsatzgruppe V	3. Armee	SS-Staf. Damzog
Einsatzkommando 1/V		SS-Stubaf. Dr. Graefe
Einsatzkommando 2/V		SS-Stubaf. Dr. Schefe
Einsatzkommando 3/V		SS-Stubaf. Dr. Albath
Einsatzgruppe VI	Militärbefehlshaber Posen	SS-Oberf. Naumann
Einsatzkommando 1/VI		SS-Stubaf. Sommer
Einsatzkommando 2/VI		SS-Stubaf. Flesch
Einsatzgruppe z.b.V. von Woyrsch***		SS-Oberf. Dr. Rasch
Einsatzkommando 16******	Miltärbefehlshaber Westpreussen	SS-Ostubaf. Dr. Tröger

* Consisted of 30 men of the Munich Gestapo who until the end of the war in Poland wore civilian clothing.

** There is reason to believe that EG II did. at one time, have 6 EK's.

*** This unit had a strength of 350 men and was divided into two groups, one under SS-Brigaf. Helwig, and the other under SS-Oberf. Trummler.

**** Formed on 12.9.39 with a strength of 100 Gestapo and Kripo officials re-inforced by Police and General SS personnel.

In the Free City of Danzig a number of Action Commandos were formed from members of the Political Police of the Danzig Criminal Police and Protection Police (Schutzpolizei) and General SS, and were exclusively at the disposal of the Danzig Police.

Following Himmler's decree of the 20th November 1939 the Action Groups and commandos used for the invasion of Poland were disbanded.[4]

In Danzig and West Prussia personnel of:

EK 16 Abt. Danzig	went to Stapoleitstelle Danzig
EK 16 Abt. Bromberg	went to Stapostelle Bromberg
EK 16 Abt. Thorn	went to Stapostelle Graudenz
EG VI Stab	went to IdS Posen
EK 1/VI	went to Stapostelle Lodz
EK 2/VI	went to Stapoleitstelle Posen
EK 1/V	went to Stapostelle Hohensalza

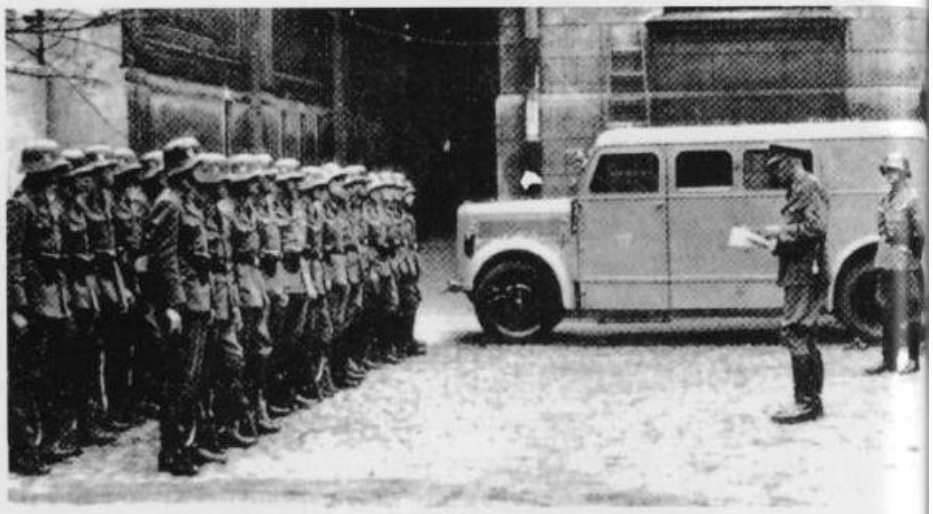
In Eastern Upper Silesia members of Action Group z.b.V. went to Stapostelle Kattowitz.

In the General Government personnel of:

EG I went to KdS Krakau
EG II went to KdS Lublin
EG III went to KdS Radom
EG IV went to KdS Warschau

On the 28th April 1941, prior to the invasion of Russia, the Commander in Chief of the Army Field Marshal von Brauchitsch laid down the conditions and zones in which Special Action Groups could operate, and also empowered them to take executive measures against the civilian population as long as these actions did not interfere with military operations. The operational zones in which the groups could function were divided as follows:[5]

Battle zone (Gefechtsgebiet)	Under overall CSSD (Heydrich/Kaltenbrunner) command, but subordinate to army in matters of movement, rations and billets.
L. of C. Area (Rückwärtiges Armeegebiet)	Subordinate to representative of CSSD, who was usually group commander, but subordinate to army in matters of movement, rations and billets.
Rear areas (Rückwärtiges Heeresgebiet)	The army commander had no jurisdiction over action groups, except to issue "limited" instructions when danger was imminent.



Members of a Special Action Group receive their orders, Poland 1939. Note that their vehicle bears police markings.

Special Action Group order of battle for the invasion of Russia

Unit	Army group	HSSPF	Commanders***
Einsatzgruppe A	North	Prutzmann/Jeckeln	Stahlecker/Jost
Sonderkommando 1a		(Riga)	Sandberger
Sonderkommando 1b			Ehrlinger
Einsatzkommando 2			Strauch
Einsatzkommando 3			Jäger
Einsatzgruppe B	Centre	Von dem Bach-Zelewski	Nebe/Naumann
Sonderkommando 7a		(Minsk)	Blume/Steimle/Rapp
Sonderkommando 7b			Rausche/Ott/Raabe
Sonderkommando 7c			Bock
Einsatzkommando 8			Bradfisch/Richter/Schindelm
Einsatzkommando 9			Schäfer/Wiebens
Vorkommando Moskau*			Six/Nebe/Klingelhöfer/Buchardt
Einsatzgruppe C	South (W, N & E)	Jeckeln/Prutzmann	Rasch/Thomas
Einsatzkommando 4a		(Kiev)	Blobel/Weinmann/Steimle/Schmidt
Einsatzkommando 4b			Herrmann/Fendler/Braune/Haensch
Einsatzkommando 5			Schulz/Meier
Einsatzkommando 6			Kröger/Mohr/Biberstein
Einsatzgruppe D	South (S) (11th Army)	Jeckeln/Prutzmann	Ohlendorf/Bierkamp
Einsatzkommando 10a		(Kiev)	Seetzen
Einsatzkommando 10b			Persterer
Einsatzkommando 11a			Zapp
Einsatzkommando 11b			Müller/Braune/Schulz
Einsatzkommando 12			Nosske/Müller
Kommando 1005**			Blobel

* This Advance Party was held in readiness for the occupation of Moscow. An Advance Party England under SS-Oberf. Six was set up prior to the planned invasion.

** This commando was set up to destroy traces of executions in territory due to be re-occupied by the Soviets.

*** EG commanders usually held ranks SS-Brigaf. up to and incl. SS-Gruf.
EK commanders usually held ranks SS-Stubaf. up to and incl. SS-Staf.

During the course of the war the following Action Groups are known to have been formed:

Unit	Army Group	HSSPF	Commanders
Einsatzgruppe E*	12th Army	Meyzner	SS-Staf. Fuchs
Einsatzgruppe G**		von Alvensleben	
Einsatzgruppe Kroatien		Kammerhofer	
Einsatzgruppe H***			
Einsatzkommando Luxembourg			

* This group was divided into a number of small commands, and for a short time established a stationary service office of the BdS Serbia.

** Under the jurisdiction of HSSPF Black Sea.

*** Formed in Slowakia in 1944.

The Special Action Groups in Russia covered vast distances, were fully motorised and armed with light automatic arms. They followed so closely behind the advancing German troops that on more than one occasion, SD and Gestapo personnel became involved in direct action with the retreating enemy. Personnel were drawn from a number of different departments, offices and units of the SD, Security Police, Waffen-SS and Order Police. In October 1941 Special Action Group A was made up as follows:

Waffen-SS	340
Motorcyclists	172
Administration	18
Security Service	35
Criminal Police	41
Gestapo	89
Auxiliary Police	87
Order police	133
Female employees	13
Interpreters	51
Teletype operators	3
Radio operators	8

As the German armed forces penetrated deeply into Soviet territory the Special Action Groups fanned out behind the front line and shot any who came under the following categories:

> Political functionaries (commissars), active communists, looters, saboteurs, Jews with false papers, agents of the NKVD, traitorous Ethnic Germans, reconciliatory and sadistic Jews, unwanted elements, carriers of epidemics, members of Russian partisan bands*, armed insurgents, partisan helpers, rebels, agitators, young vagabonds, and Jews in general.[9]

In many Ukrainian and Russian towns the Action Groups found willing helpers amongst the racial Germans, indigenous self-defence forces (Selbstchutz) and militia.

After the first wave of actions, the Special Action Groups settled down to maintain security in the newly occupied and pacified territories, where they set up a static territorial organisation, which was in fact a miniature RSHA in the field, with SD, Gestapo and Kripo representatives under a Commander of Security Police and SD (Befehlshaber der Sipo und des SD=BdS). Under each commander were a number of local commanders of Security Police and SD (Kommandeure der Sipo und des SD=KdS). The commanders of Special Action Groups A and C became BdS, and those of Special Action Commandos became KdS.

At first the civilian population in the occupied territories, if not actually pro-German did not resist the occupiers, but the indiscriminate and brutal treatment meted out by the security forces in general, and the Special Action Groups in particular, soon swung it against the Germans. Large numbers of Soviet deserters and stragglers cut off behind the German lines, could now rely on the civilian population for support, and began to disrupt German lines of communications and carry out reprisals on persons or communities which had collaborated with the occupiers.

In May 1942 the BdS Lublin formed a special Action Group (Sondereinsatzgruppe) which was to disguise itself as a partisan band and assist the security forces in the maintenance of order. This unit was intended to carry out large scale looting and reprisals in the name of the partisans, and thus discredit the partisan movement (Gwardia Ludowa) in the eyes of the local inhabitants.[11]

In October 1942, SS-Obergruppenführer Erich von dem Bach-Zelewski was given overall command of all anti-partisan formations with the title of Pleninpotentiary for the Combatting of Partisans in the East (Bevollmächtigter für die Bandenbekämpfung im Osten), and in 1943 Chief of Anti-Partisan Formations (Chef der Bandenkampfverbände). In Western Europe Action Groups in the extermination sense had not been used in the initial occupations, but the establishment of the normal security police network of commanders and regional commanders under a Higher SS and Police Leader was rapidly set up. The situation however, developed differently. The resistance movements at first did not take up arms against the occupiers, but acted as agents and couriers for the allied powers; their numbers were small and their techniques sophisticated, and it required more brains than brawn, on behalf of the security police to track them down. It was not until 1943 that bands of partisans began to harass German lines of communication and supply, as a prelude to the invasion of Western Europe.

In the west, SD and security police had no special anti-partisan units of their own and had to call on the security units of the army and the police

These three photographs show Special Action Groups in action during the initial stages of the invasion of Russia. A Soviet straggler is captured, personal documents are scrutinised, and a suspected partisan questioned.

for assistance. In the east the situation was deteriorating rapidly, as 1943 drew to a close, and some of the units recruited from the indigenous populations in Russia and Ukraine were beginning to prove unreliable, and it was decided to exchange them for German units in the west. Large numbers of auxiliaries were transported to France, Italy and Yugoslavia where they fought partisans under SS, Police and army command.

As the allies approached German soil the Security Police once again became mobile, and special commandos were sent wherever morale was thought to be sinking, and where ruthless examples would restore the will of the German people to resist the invasion of their homeland.

* By order of the Chief of Security Police and SD (Nr.24., IV.D 5.B. Nr.2746/42g den 13.8.42) anti-German bands in Russia and the Balkans were not, for psychological reasons, to be referred to as partisans, but bandits. See Nuremberg Document NO. 5653.

1 Nuremberg Document USSR 509.
2 Ibid.
3 Der Sicherheitsdienst der SS., Einsatzgruppen in Polen., Heft 2., pp.11-18.
4 Ibid. pp.35-36.
5 Nuremberg Document NOKW 2302.
6 The destruction of the European Jews., Table 39., p.188.
7 Befehlsblatt des Chefs der Sich.Pol.u.d.SD.Nr.37/44., p.208.
8 Report by Einsatzgruppe A.15th October 1941.L-180.
9 Die SS., p.100.
10 Der Sicherheitsdienst der SS., p.228.
11 Ibid., p.

EINSATZGRUPPEN CHAIN OF COMMAND

Reichssicherheitshauptamt
|
Befehlshaber der Sipo und des SD-BdS
|
Kommandeure der Sipo und des SD-KdS
|
Einsatzgruppen-EG (400-1,000 men)
|
sub-divided into Sonderkommandos-SK (20-30 men)
Vorkommandos (variable)
|
Teil-Kommandos (Platoons)

The Reichsführer-SS used a special command channel via his representative, the HSSPF, to the commander or local commander of Security Police and SD. Finally a command channel for the whole SS was introduced.

Reichsführer-SS—RFSS
|
Höhere SS und Polizeiführer—HSSPF
|
Einheiten und Stellen der
|

Sipo | Orpo | Waffen-SS | Allgemeinen-SS | RKF*

* Reichskommissar für die Festigung deutschen Volkstums (Reich Commissar for the Strengthening of Germanism).

SELBSTSCHUTZ VEREINE

Immediately after the entry of German troops into Western Poland, small groups of ethnic Germans (Volksdeutsche) formed themselves into a militia. The Germans advanced so rapidly that often newly occupied territories were devoid of German troops, and the militia proved so useful that the army undertook the training and arming of these irregular units. At a meeting at Hitler's headquarters, between the 8th and 10th September 1939, Himmler, at Hitler's suggestion, ordered Gottlob Berger to reorganise the militia in Poland into Self-Protection units (Selbstschutz) under SS leadership, for the purpose of defending German families and property in Poland. Accordingly a Self-Protection force was organised in three regions:

Region	Army command	Commander	H.Q.
Südlicher Bereich	AOK 14	SS-Oberf. Katzmann	Breslau
Mittlerer Bereich	Posen	SS-Oberf. Kelz	Posen
Nördlicher Bereich	AOK 4	SS-Oberf. von Alvensleben*	Danzig

Each region was divided into districts (Kreise) under a Kreisführer des Selbstschutzes.

Each district was divided into a locality (Ort) under an Örtlichen Selbstschutzführer.

The Southern and middle regions came under the overall command of the SS Main Office (SS-Hauptamt) under SS-Ogruf. Heissmeyer, while the Northern region came under Heydrich's RSHA.

At the end of September the Self-Protection Force was reorganised on stricter lines. Himmler again entrusted Berger with the formation of a Self-Protection Force in the Occupied Eastern Territories, with the consent of the OKW, but under the overall operational jurisdiction of the Chief of the Order Police (Chef der Ordnungspolizei).

In the draft order setting up the Self-Protection Force, which Himmler submitted to the army commands and chiefs of the civil administration, he described its role as follows:

> " . . . . The Selbstschutz is a police organisation and is subordinate to the Chief and regional organs of the Order Police. Commanders of the Order Police (Befehlshaber der Orpo) are responsible for the use of the Selbstschutz, and for its arming, training and supervision. I request therefore that care be taken to see that no other organisation should make use of police authority".

Although technically a police organisation the Selbstschutz was commanded by SS leaders, who were ultimately responsible to the HSSPF in their military region.

Service in the Selbstschutz was voluntary and honourable, and open to all racial Germans between the ages of 17 and 45, who were capable of carrying arms. The Selbstschutz was entrusted with tasks such as the escorting of refugees, custody of prisoners-of-war, and the guarding of important installations and objects, such as stocks of war booty etc.

By its close co-operation with the Action Groups and indiscriminate treatment of the Poles, the Selbstschutz earned itself such an unsavoury reputation amongst the Germans, that Gauleiter Forster succeeded in getting Hitler to agree to its disbandment. On the 8th November

1939 Himmler ordered its disbandment with effect from the 30th November 1939. Most of its personnel joined the SS, SA or NSKK, while the Selbstschutz in Lublin continued as the General Government Special Service (Sonderdienst des Generalgouvernements). In fact it was not until April 1940 that the Selbstschutz was finally disbanded. It was estimated that between September 1939 and January 1940, 45,000 men of all ages had served in the Selbstschutz.

* Even before the war von Alvensleben had been leader of an underground organisation in Poland, the Young German Party (Jungdeutsche Partei) which was linked with the Foreign Organisation of the NSDAP. In July 1940 it was announced that former members of the ethnic German organisation in Poland, the Deutsche Jugendschaft were entitled to wear the "honour chevron for old campaigners". See Vol. 1. (2nd Ed.) p.54.

For the complete text of which this is an extract, see Einsatzgruppen in Polen., pp.164-184.

UNIFORM

A few days before the invasion of Poland SS leaders chosen to command Self Protection units were equipped with field-grey uniforms. The rank-and-file wore civilian clothes at first, but were gradually uniformly clothed in black. The "uniform", which was probably of Polish origin, consisted of a black field cap which sometimes bore a white metal button in front, and the SS national emblem on the left side. The tunic and greatcoat had white metal buttons, and a white or green linen brassard with "Selbstschutz" in black letters, which was worn on the upper right sleeve. There appears to have been no other insignia or badges of rank. Black breeches or trousers and boots completed the uniform. The waist-belt with two-pronged buckle and cross strap were of black leather.[1]

[1] Deutsches Vorfeld im Osten, pp.149 & 166.

SONDERDIENST DES GENERALGOUVERNEMENTS

Formed in April 1940 on the disbandment of the Selbstschutz in the district of Lublin. The Sonderdienst was controlled by Section IV (Abteilung IV) in the Main Section for Internal Administration (Hauptabteilung Innere Verwaltung) of the General Government Administration (Die Regierung des Generalgouvernements), and was organised as follows:[1]

Abt. IV: Sonderdienst
angegliedert:
Inspektion des Sonderdienstes
Ersatzbataillon des Sonderdienstes
Führerschule des Sonderdienstes
Intendantur des Sonderdienstes

UNIFORM

The Special Service wore field-grey with black cloth shoulder straps and a special armbadge, the design of which is not known.

[1] Das General-Gouvernement, p.376 and Das General-Gouvernement, seine Verwaltung und seine Wirtschaft, p.84.

POLIZEI-HILFSKRÄFTE UND SCHUTZMANNSCHAFTEN

The Germans advanced rapidly into Russia leaving behind them vast areas which had to be cleared of Soviet stragglers and patrolled in order that lines of communication could be secured and normal conditions restored so that civil government could be established without delay. It was the Germany army that first established auxiliary police units, but the army seldom remained long in one place, and following closely behind were the Action Groups who immediately took over the existing forces or formed their own auxiliary units. These units were known by a variety of names such as Ortsmiliz, Miliz, Ordnungsdienst, Bürgerwehr and Selbstschutz. They were recruited mainly from ethnic Germans, but also included reliable members of the defunct Soviet militia and pro-

Germans in general. As soon as the Action Groups became Static auxilliaries were used mainly as interpreters and guards, whilst the rank and file were turned over to the Order Police. Both the army and police continued to recruit the indigenous population as guides, interpreters and later anti-partisan fighters, but although useful as guards and for actions against the civil population these haphazardly formed units were ill-disciplined, badly trained and equipped, and often unreliable. Partisan activity increased, particularly in the heavily wooded regions of Belorussia, and the situation behind the front deteriorated to such an extent that the OKW had to issue guidelines for the more efficient combatting of partisans in the Eastern territories (Richtlinien für die verstärkte Bekämpfung des Bandenunwesens im Osten)[1], and for the first time officially recognised the fact, that contrary to Hitler's wishes, Soviet subjects had been armed and trained to fight the Soviets in the rear of the German armed forces. On the 6th November 1941, Himmler ordered that all indigenous auxilliaries were to be formed into auxilliary police units (Schutzmannschaften. Officially abbreviated Schutz.-Btl., but more commonly known as Schuma. Btl.)[2]. Estonians, Latvians, Lithuanians, and Ukrainians were recruited for a six month period and formed into battalions which were placed at the disposal of the Order Police Commander and the HSSPF.

Like all SS/Police matters the dividing line was very fine, but it appears that some of the first auxiliary police units formed by the action groups in the Baltic, Belorussia and the Ukraine, retained their SS identity while the Schutzmannschaften as a whole were primarily an auxiliary Order Police. It is only the units which may be considered as auxiliary security police that are relevant to this study.

In the areas behind the front which had been handed over to civilian administration, the Ministry for Occupied Eastern Territories began to establish four huge Reich Commissariats. In fact due to the situation at the front, only two were actually formed; Ostland, which included Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Belorussia, which in turn contained much of the Ukraine, and Ukraine herself. The other two commissariats, Caucasus and Muscovy were never formed.

REICHSKOMMISSARIAT OSTLAND (Russland-Nord). Reichskommissar Hinrich Lohse. HSSPF Ostland, SS-Ogruf.u.Gen.d.P.Jeckeln.

Estonia[9] As soon as Army Group North occupied Estonia it established a Selbstschutz, which was then taken over by EG A and SK Ia to help in their tasks, but as soon as normal conditions were restored the Selbstschutz was re-organised on a territorial basis. In July 1942 the following self-defence regions were established:— Reval, Harrien, Jerwen, Wierland, Narwa, Dorpat, Werro, Walk, Petschur, Pernau, Fellin, Ösel and Wiek, and in July 1944 a railway region, which embraced all railway territory in Estonia was established. Each region was commanded by a Regional Self-Defence Leader (Selbstschutzgebietsführer), who was subordinate to the Police Prefect. The railway region was subordinate to the Railway Prefect. Service was compulsory for all Estonians between the ages of 17 and 45, who were physically fit, with the exception of those working in war industries.[3]

In Reval there also existed an Estonian Security Police which appears to have been organised in five departments.[4]

At the end of 1941 Estonian Security Battalions (Estnische Sicherungsabteilungen) were formed, and in 1942 they were renamed Schuma. battalions.

Latvia[9] The Latvians had an auxiliary police force since the 3rd July 1941, which consisted of former police constables, soldiers and members of the "Aizsargi"*, under the command of a former Latvian police captain Petersens. EK Ib re-organised the auxiliary police and by 16th July 1941 it numbered 240 men in six police districts. Apart from police duties some personnel were assigned to criminal and security police duties.[5]

A Latvian self-defence detachment was found by the German army looting in Karsava and was promptly disbanded. A new Selbstschutz was formed in Rositten by the army regional commander after consultation with the mayor and District Commander of Self-Defence.[6]

In November 1941, Latvian Security Battalions (Lettische Sicherungs-Abteilungen) were formed from various auxiliary units, and in 1942 they were renamed Schuma. battalions.

Lithuania[9] Anti-Soviet partisans in and around Kovno were disbanded on the 28th June 1941, by order of the German Field Commandant's office, but from the reliable elements 5 auxiliary companies were formed. 2 companies were put at the disposal of SK Ib, one of which was used to guard the Jewish concentration camp at Kovno (Fort 7), while the second was used for police duties.[7]

In July 1941, the Lithuanian political police was disbanded in Wilna, and EK 2 (?) took over the Order Service (Ordnungsdienst) which consisted of about 150 men.[8]

At the end of the year a Lithuania Security Battalion was formed, probably from auxiliary police and Order Service personnel.[9]

Belorussia[9] The Belorussian police had been thoroughly purged in 1939, and replaced by a new apparatus, which burned its documents and fled as the Germans approached. An auxiliary police (Hilfspolizei) was formed from Belorussian and Polish criminal police officials, and placed at the disposal of the German Security Police in Bialystok.[10] The first Ukrainian Schuma. battalion in Belorussia was formed on the 24th August 1941.[11] Belorussian auxiliary security police units are also thought to have existed.[12]

REICHSKOMMISSARIAT UKRAINE (Russland-Süd)**. Reichskommissar Erich Koch. HSSPF Russland-Süd, SS-Ogruf.u.Gen.d.P.von dem Bach Zelewski.

Ukraine[9] On entering Cherson SK IIa found a Ukrainian Security Service already in existance. It was sifted of unreliable elements and 157 men were ceremoniously sworn in. Its tasks were the maintenance of peace, guarding of stores and factories against looters and saboteurs and the rounding up of Jews. On the 23rd August 1942 ethnic-Germans were requested to report to the commando, and by 10th September about 180 had complied. They were issued with identity papers, given billets and made available as interpreters and specialists. A Ukrainian Self-Defence or Militia (MILIZ) was also established to maintain order.[13] In August 1941 the first schuma. battalions were formed and by February 1942 had a strength of 14,452 men.[14]

There is also mention of a Ukrainian police unit "Murrawa", which in July 1944 as the 23rd Security Service Battalion (SD Battaillon 23) was attached for a short time to the 30th. Waffen-Grenadier-Division (russ.Nr.2.).

Transnistria[9] This province between the river Bug and south of the Dnestr was separated from the Ukraine and handed over to Rumania in August 1941. From the 140,000 strong ethnic-German population approximately 8 to 9,000 men served in the Selbstschutz.[15]

REICHSKOMMISSARIAT KAUKASIEN. Reichskommissar Arno Schickendanz.*** HSSPF Schwarzes Meer, SS-Gruf.u.Gen.Lt.d.P. von Alvensleben.

At the beginning of 1942 the SD toured prisoner-of-war camps behind the front and recruited approximately 3,000 "reliable" Tartars, who were formed into Tartar Self-Defence Companies (Tartaren—Selbstschutz-Kompanien). These men were to receive the same pay as German soldiers, and armed with German or captured weapons. Clothing and equipment was, where possible, to be German. Instead of the German national emblem and badges of rank, personnel wore a white brassard with the stamp of their unit (Dienststempel der betr. Einheit) on the right arm.

One Tartar company was formed in each of the following towns:— Karassubar, Bachtschissaraj, Simferopol, Jalta, Aluschta, Sudak, St. Krim, and Jewapatorija.[16]

* Self-Defence organisation founded during the Ulmanis dictatorship in 1934.

** The Bialystok (Belostock) district of Western Belorussia, Polish until 1939, was attached to German East Prussia as of August 1941, thus linking the latter with the Ukraine. Two areas of the Ukraine were also detached: Western Ukraine, or Galicia, Polish-held until the war was made part of the General Government of Poland; and a sizeable strip between the Dnestr and the Bug rivers, to the north of Odessa, was assigned to Rumania under the name of Transnistria.[17]

*** The Reichskommissariat was never established, and although Schikendanz was officially appointed, he never took up his duties.

1 Der Führer OKW/WFSt/op. Nr. 00 2821/42 G.Kdos.Weisung Nr.46. RFSS T-175 140/2668246.
2 Erl. O Kdo I (Nr. 24/41(g)v. 25.7.1941 und 24.II/41(g)v. 31.7.41.
3 Amtlicher Anzeiger Nr.13., 31.7.42, Art 58. Anordnung über Organisation der Ordnungspolizei und des Selbstschutzes.
4 Vorschlag der Strafprojektierungskommission des Referats der Politischen Polizei Reval zum Vorlegen an den Leiter der Abt. B IV. Reval, den 23(?).11.42.
5 Ereignismeldung UdSSR., Nr.24. Berlin, den 16.7.41. NO 2938.
6 War Diary 281st Security Division, 1st August 1941. NOKW 2150.
7 Ereignismeldung UdSSR Nr.14. Berlin, den 16.7.41. NO 2940.
8 Ereignismeldung UdSSR Nr.21. Berlin, den 13.7.41. NO 2937.
9 Zur Geschichte der Ordnungspolizei 1936-1945., p.57.
10 Ereignismeldung UdSSR Nr.106. Berlin, den 7.10.41. NO 3140.
11 Zur Geschichte der Ordnungspolizei 1936-1945., p.63.
12 Die Deutsche Polizei., p.379 with illus.
13 Bericht über die Tätigkeit des S. Kdo IIa in Cherson von 22.8 bis 10.9.1941. NOKW 636.
14 Zur Geschichte der Ordnungspolizei., p.56.
15 Die Volksdeutschen in der Waffen-SS., p.14.
16 Meldung Stab für Partisanenbekämpfung, Abteilung Ia A.H.qu., den 4.2.42. NOKW 1451.
17 German rule in Russia, p. 90.

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Uniform as such was at first non-existent, and auxiliaries wore civilian clothes or the uniform of their previous organisation. Ex-Soviet prisoners-of-war wore faded khaki, while ex-militia men wore dark blue. The only insignia being a white brassard worn on the right arm which bore such inscriptions as "Ordnungsdienst", "Selbstschutz" or just "Miliz" together with the stamp of the issuing office. Conditions were so bad that in June 1942, SSPF Belorussia reported to HSSPF Ostland in Riga, that members of the "Schutzmannschaften-Einzeldienst" were so badly equipped, that many of them didn't even have shoes, and went barefoot, and ended up by saying that things should be better organised.[1] Gradually a distinctive, if not very elegant, uniform was introduced for the Schutzmannschaften. It was not new, but made from stocks of old uniforms which had been dyed black.* The collar, shoulder straps, pocket flaps and cuffs were made of police-green cloth, and the various categories were identified by the service colour (Waffenfarbe), which appeared on the collar patches, shoulder straps and armbadge. The specially designed oval armbadge bore the motto "Faithful, Valiant and Obedient" (TREU TAPFER GEHORSAM), as if to remind the wearer what was expected of him. On the 20th January 1943 Pohl wrote to Himmler stating that since the beginning of December (1942) 8,000 used, but good uniforms, consisting of tunics, trousers, greatcoats, caps, shirts, underpants, socks, lace-up boots and belts were in store at Dachau in readiness for the Self-defence units under the jurisdiction of the HSSPF Southern Russia, but that owing to the catastrophic communications with the southern region the transport officer in the SS Main Office had not been able to arrange transportation.[2] There is no mention of which Self-Defence unit was to receive these uniforms, but the number suggests that it may have been the Tranistrian enthic-Germans. Auxiliary police attached to the Security Police at first wore field-grey clothing without any distinctive insignia or badges of rank, but in April 1943 special insignia, consisting of a cap badge, armbadge, collar patches and shoulder straps were introduced.[3]

On the 11th January 1944, SS-Gruf. Lörner wrote to SS-Ostubaf. Brandt concerning a batch of 5,000 uniforms for Self-Defence units. Lörner wanted to know if he was to remove the insignia (national emblems and death's heads) from the tunics and caps. On the 24th Brandt replied

* In 1942 the RFSS instituted a collection of surplus black SS service clothing and all districts were expected to denote unissued uniforms. It is possible that it was these uniforms that were modified and issued to the Schutzmannschaften. For details and quantities see RFSS T-175 Roll 173.

that it wasn't necessary, but that collar patches should be taken off.[4] It appears that while at first all manner of uniforms were worn by members of the Self-Defence and police auxiliaries, there was an attempt to issue them all with field-grey uniforms.

The following order concerning the clothing of foreign auxiliaries employed as guards by the Security Police was published in the autumn of 1944.

Uniform und Ausweis für fremdvölkische Bewachungskräfte der Sich.Pol.im Reichsgebiet.

RdErl.des Reichssicherheitshauptamts vom 28.8.2944
— I A 1 a Nr.450/44 —

To the Security Police and SD

1. Foreign auxiliaries from the East allocated to service offices of the Security Police are, if used as guards, to be provided with field-grey uniform without insignia or badges of rank but with a brassard "In the Service of the Security Police" (Im Dienst der Sicherheitspolizei). The brassard is to be worn on the upper right arm.
2. Clothing is to be provided by the nearest clothing centre (Bekleidungskammer) of the Security Police. Brassards and, if necessary, articles of clothing and equipment, are to be claimed from the RSHA—Dept. II A 3—with reference to this order.
3. Foreign guards are to be provided with the following pass by the office of employment.

Paragraphs 3-7 deal with details concerning the issue and validity of the pass (Ausweis).

Im Dienste der Sicherheitspolizei

Brassard for Security Police auxiliaries: black on green.

8. Members of Schutzmannschaften units commanded by individual service offices will retain their uniforms with the insignia and badges of rank as specified in the provisions concerning the Schutzmannschaften of the Security Police of the 13th April 1943.

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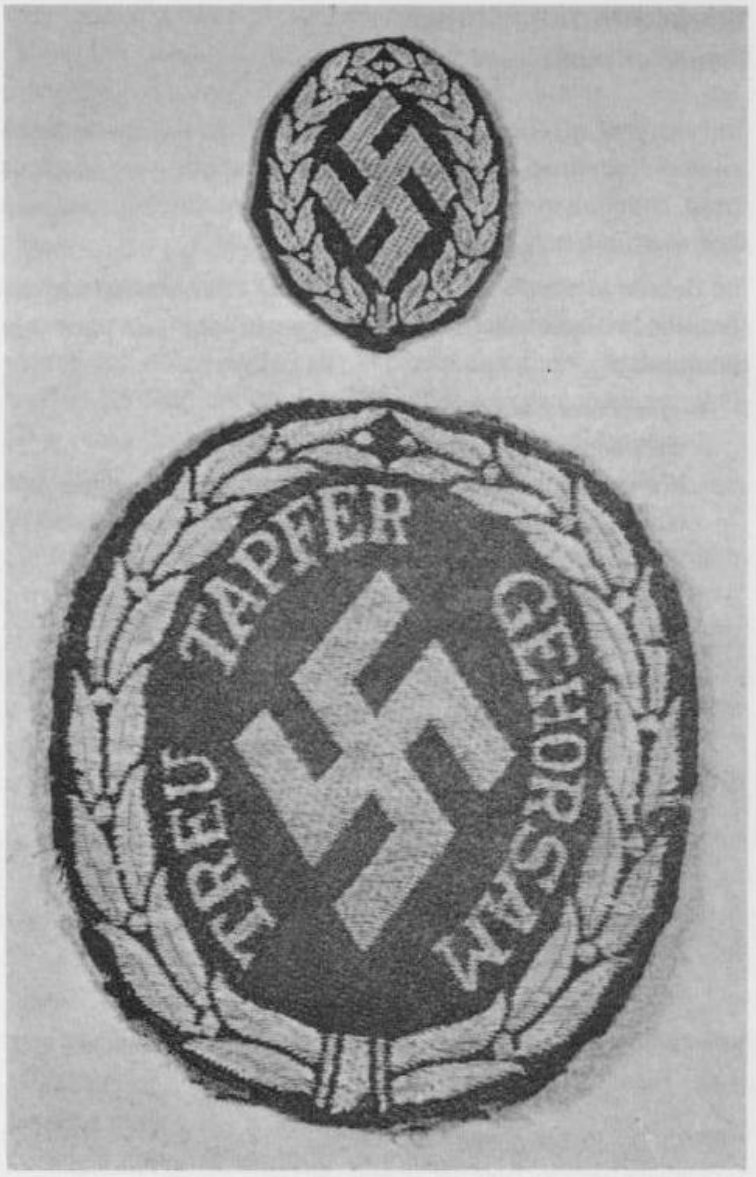
1

2 SS-Ogruf. Pohl to the Reichsführer-SS, Berlin, 20th January 1943, re: clothing for Self-Defence units.

3 Befehlsblatt des Chefs der Sipo und des SD.Nr 35/44, p. 196.

4 Lörner to SS-Ostubaf. Dr. Brandt, Berlin, 11th January 1944, re: The clothing of Self-Defence units.

Members of an Auxiliary Security Police Battalion surrender their English and American arms to members of the Danish Resistance, 1945. These are believed to be members of a Latvian unit, and they wear a mixture of Schuma. and Waffen-SS uniform and insignia.



Cap and armbadge for Auxiliary Security Police personnel. Officers' badges were woven in aluminium wire and other ranks in grey-green silk thread, both on a black background.

DIENSTGRADABZEICHEN
Badges of rank

The wearing of German badges of rank by foreign auxiliaries was expressly forbidden,[1] and new titles and badges were gradually introduced, although it appears that neither the prohibition, or new regulations were ever uniformly enforced, or observed.

The Decree of the RFSS of the 30th May 1942 stated that with effect from the 1st June the following badges of rank and titles were to be introduced:[2]

a) Russians and Ukrainians, etc.:

Bataillonsführer der Schuma. Kompanieführer der Schuma. Oberzugführer der Schuma. Zugführer der Schuma.	Same badges of rank as Army.
Kompanie-Feldwebel der Schuma. Vizefeldwebel der Schuma. Korporal der Schuma. Unterkorporal der Schuma. Schutzmann	Sleeve stripes.

b) Latvians, Estonians and Lithuanians:

Oberstleutnant Major Hauptmann Oberleutnant Leutnant	Same badges of rank as Army.

Non-commissioned officers and men to have same titles and badges as a).

1 RFSS T-175 140/2668246.

2 O-Kdo I 0(1) Nr.204/42 in Rep. 320 Adj.Nr.29.

Members of a Ukrainian Security Police Auxiliary battalion are decorated with the medal for bravery and merit of the "Eastern people". This photograph together with others appeared in the 1st December 1944 issue of "Die Deutsche Polizei".

Evidence exists to suggest that Schuma. units were either taken over or formed by the Security Police and that the personnel were issued with SS uniform. In April 1943 special badges of rank were introduced for auxiliary Security Police units (see plate 3). In July 1944 those Schuma. batallions under the Commanders of Order Police in Central Russia and Belorussia were transferred to the 30. Waffen-Grenadier-Division (russ.Nr.2). On the 31st July 1944 the Operations officer found it necessary to issue a table showing comparative ranks in the Schuma, Order Police and SS, and this shows that the Schuma. rank titles had undergone a change in the commissioned ranks since May 1942. It is probable but not certain, that members of Security Police auxiliary units used SS titles with the prefix "Waffen" which was applied to non-Germanic personnel who were not considered full members of the SS. The badges of rank illustrated in plate 3 are based on those shown in the photograph on page 30. The collar patches for commissioned ranks have not been confirmed by any pictorial or written evidence, but are based on those worn by army "Eastern" volunteer units.

Schutzmann-schaften	**Police**	**SS**
Kapitan	Hauptmann	Waffen-Hauptsturmführer
Starschy Leitenant	Oberleutnant/Inspektor	Waffen-Obersturmführer
Leitenant	Leutnant/Sekretär	Waffen-Untersturmführer
Kompanie-Feldwebel	Hauptwachtmeister	Waffen-Hauptscharführer
Vize-Feldwebel	Zugwachtmeister	Waffen-Oberscharführer
Korporal	Oberwachtmeister	Waffen-Scharführer
—	Wachtmeister	Waffen-Unterscharführer
Vize-Korporal	Rottwachtmeister	Waffen-Rottenführer
Unter-Korporal	Unterwachtmeister	Waffen-Sturmmann
Schutzmann	Anwärter	Waffen-Grenadier

1 Div Ia, 30th Waffen-Grenadier-Division. 31.7.44.

SS-EINHEITEN "DRUSHINA"*

From March until June 1942 selected SS leaders were attached to RSHA Amt VI C under SS-Ostubaf. Dr Gräfe, for the purpose of touring prisoner-of-war camps in German occupied Russian territory and recruiting Soviet subjects who might be willing, in return for better conditions and a modicum of freedom, to work against the Soviets.[1] The operation was known as "Zeppelin", and its purpose was the formation of large units for special operations behind the Soviet lines.

Three units, North, Central and South were established to organise sabotage, subversion and the gathering of information. Agents were either infiltrated or parachuted behind the lines. The original purpose of "Zeppelin" had been the deployment in the Soviet rear of large units, and for this reasons sizeable numbers had been recruited, but no really large-scale operations were ever mounted due to lack of sufficient aircraft with which to transport them, so it was decided to use the bulk of the personnel for anti-partisan operations.

'Zeppelin" personnel were divided into two groups: "Drushina" or 'Drushina I", comprised of those considered unsuitable for subversive activities, and "Drushina II",[2] retained the most intelligent and reliable elements for special operations.

At the beginning of 1942 "Drushina", about a battalion strong, under the command of a Kuban Cossack, ex-Soviet Lieutenant-Colonel Rodionov/Gil[3], was moved to Nevel, northeast of Polotsk in Belorussia, and was almost immediately thrown into the front-line to help contain a Soviet breakthrough.[4]

In May 1942, "SS-Verband Druzhina" was included on the anti-partisan strength of the HSSPF Belorussia,[5] and used against partisans, who

* A romantic Russian term associated with medieval knighthood and bodyguards, but in this context refers to an élite body of volunteers. Spelt in German documents with both a Z and S.

were particularly active in that region because of its huge forests. By late 1942 "Drushina" is thought to have been increased considerably, and field post office numbers suggest that there was an H.Q. and four battalions.[6] On the 18th November, 1942, Rodionov's battalion and the "Sigling Battalion" comprised "Group Naumann" on the anti-partisan strength of HSSPF Central Russia, SS-Gruf. Erich von dem Bach-Zelewski.[7]

During the night of the 24th/25th November, 1942, 63 men of the 1st company of Rodionov's battalion, wearing SS uniform and carrying all its light and heavy weapons went over to the partisans at Kolitschenko, after killing one SD N.C.O., and four German workers, and wounding two others.[8] This was the first defection from a unit which had apparently enjoyed the German's complete confidence.

In the spring of 1943 Rodionov's men were assigned a definite territory in the Glubokoe area, which they administered as an automonous region.[9]

During the summer of 1943 von dem Bach-Zelewski launched the largest anti-partisan operation to be held in Belorussia, with the code-name "Cottbus", and "Drushina" units under Action Group West took part.[10]

During this period there was talk of incorporating "Drushina" into General Vlassov's, "Russian Army of Liberation", and one of Vlassov's senior staff officers Lieutenant-General Zhilenkov was sent to Rodionov. His presence there probably suggested to Rodionov that he might be replaced at any moment, and his unit absorbed into a much larger formation, [11] and so contact was made with the partisans. In August, 1943, Rodionov and most of his battalion defected en-masse to the "Zhelezniak Brigade", and was renamed the 1st Anti-Fascist Brigade.[12] In April, 1944, Rodionov and most of his fellow deserters were killed during the German anti-partisan operation "Spring Feast".[13]

Those members of "Drushina" who remained loyal to the Germans eventually ended up in the "Kaukasischer Waffenverband der SS."[14]

1 Interrogation summaries 998, SS-Stubaf. Haussmann (RSHA Amt VI C1), and 2031, SS-Hstuf. Heyer (RSHA Amt VI), who was responsible for recruiting Soviet prisoners of Caucasian extraction. Heyer apparently remained their CO in the Crimea until the fall of Sebastopol in July, 1942.

2 This title does not appear to have been used.

3 It is not known if his name was actually Rodionov or Gil.

4 Rodionov: A case-study in wartime redefection (hereafter referred to as Rodionov), pp. 26-27.

5 Strength of HSSPF Belorussia, 1st May, 1942. RFSS T-175 225/2764109.

6

7 Strength of HSSPF Central Russia, 18th November, 1942. RFSS 225/2764162.

8 HSSPF Central Russia, Abtlg.Ia.Tgb Nr. 1346/42 geh.St Qu., den 27.11.42. RFSS T-175 255/2764163. The first battalion was named after the unit's commander, and it is possible that the other three battalions were known by their commanders' names. Steenberg gives the names of senior "Drushina" officers as Bogdanov, Orlov and Blazhevitch. It is significant that the field post office numbers of the H.Q. and 1st bn. were cancelled in August, 1943, whereas those of the remaining three battalions were not cancelled until February, 1945.

9 Rodinov, p. 28.

10 Sondermeldung über das Unternehmen "Cottbus" (also spelt Gottbus and Kottbus). Chef der Bandenkampfverbände, den 23.6.1943. NO 2608.

11 Rodionov, pp. 29-30.

12 Ibid. pp. 29-30.

13 Ibid. p. 31.

14

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The official report concerning the desertion of the 1st company of Rodionov's battalion states that the men went over to the partisans wearing SS uniform.[1]

According to another report Rodionov's men serving with the partisans in April 1944 were dressed as follows, "only one-third of its men wore old (German) uniforms with the ROA insignia removed".[2]

Like most units recruited from anti-Soviet Russians, uniform varied considerably, and even if "Drushina" had been issued, on formation, with SS field-grey uniforms, it is doubtful if they would have lasted twelve months of partisan fighting in the forests of Belorussia, and supplies of all sorts were hard to come by in that part of the world, so it is most likely that Rodionov's men wore whatever they could find.

The plan to incorporate "Drushina" in the Russian Army of Liberation may have reached the stage where the ROA armbadge had already been issued.

[1] HSSPF Central Russia, Abtlg.Ia.Tgb Nr. 1346/42 geh.St Qu., den 27.11.1942.

[2] Rodionov, p. 31.

DIENSTANZUG DER SICHERHEITSPOLIZEI UND DES SICHERHEITSDIENSTES

Service Dress of the Security Police and Security Service

It had always been Himmler's intention to unify the SS and Police to form a "State Protection Corps of the National Socialist Reich", so that eventually the conventional police force could be done away with altogether. This was done first by re-organisation and then by absorption of police personnel into the SS. Before the war the question of which policemen should become SS members was decided on racial and ideological grounds, but during the war expediency was the prime factor and civilian and military specialists found themselves in SS uniform, without ever having had anything to do with the SS, let alone being members of that organisation. Himmler was torn between his desire to expand the SS, while retaining its exclusive nature.

The conditions for membership of the SS by members of the Security Police were complicated and continuously subject to amendment, and those wishing to study this question in detail will find all relevant information in Appendix 2, on p. 49.

SD personnel and all members of the Security Police entitled to wear SS uniform wore the black SS service uniform (see Vol. 1, pp. 8-21), until 1938/9 when the field-grey SS service uniform was gradually introduced first to Main Office personnel and then to those serving in the newly occupied territories (see Vol. 1, pp. 17-18).

As the activities of the Special Action Groups became known, the Waffen-SS objected to the fact that SD and Sipo uniform was indistuinguishable from its own. These complaints brought about one important change; the army and Waffen-SS system of N.C.O. rank insignia was replaced by that of the police.

While desk-bound officials and the staffs of the various service offices and headquarters, both in Germany and occupied territories, adhered to the dress regulations, members of the Special Action Groups, because of their heterogeneous nature, wore a mixture of SS, army and police clothing.

Towards the end of the war uniforms were standardised, and according to a RSHA circular of 20th July 1944, uniform and equipment for officers, N.C.O.'s and men of the Security Police and SD was similar in cut and manufacture to that of the Waffen-SS, but with insignia as laid down by the Security Main Office (SD-Hauptamt).[1]

Leaders and officials with officers' rank were expected to equip themselves with the following clothing, footwear and equipment.[2]

[1] Befehlsblatt des Chefs der Sich.Pol.u.d.SD. No. 37/44, p. 208.

Item	Quantity
Field cap	2
Peaked cap	2
Field blouse, field jacket or uniform tunic in cloth or serge	2
Collar liner or stiff collar	4
Riding breeches, breeches, field or long trousers gathered at the ankle	2
Greatcoat or over-greatcoat (Übermantel)	2
Raincoat	1
High boots, or lace-up ankle boots with leather gaiters or mountain boots	2 prs.
Ankle straps for mountain boots	2 prs.
Shoes, black	2 prs.
Spurs with straps	2 prs.
Balaclava helmet,* or woollen scarf	1
Pullover, or woollen underjacket or fur vest	1
Leather gloves, lined or unlined	1 pr.
Handkerchiefs	3
Washing bag	1
Sports vest	2
Sports trousers	2
Waist belt	1
Sword belt (Unterschnallgurt)	1
Map case	1
Sleeping bag	1
Shoe resoling in the year	up to 3 prs.
Leather lining for riding breeches (only if able to ride a horse)	1
Sword knot	2
Officers' trunk	1
From SS-Stubaf. upwards	2

* The name given to a knitted woollen helmet with face opening invented, together with the cardigan, in the Crimean War. The Germans called it a head-protector (Kopfschützer).

SS-Ogruf. Reinhard Heydrich, his adjutant and SS-Gruf. Frank, Prague, September 1941. (CTK, Prague.)

Each non-commissioned member of the SD or Sipo was issued with the following clothing, footwear and equipment:[3]

Item	Quantity	
	a	b
Field-cap, field-grey	1	1
Field blouse, field-grey	1	1
Field trousers, field-grey	1	1
Canvas gaiters	1	1
Greatcoat	1	1
Drill tunic, camouflaged	1	1
Drill trousers, camouflaged	1	1
Collar attached shirt	–	2
Underpants	–	2
Socks or foot cloths	–	3
Balaclava helmet (only in winter)	1	1
Woollen gloves (only in winter)	1	1
Black tie	1	1
Steel side hooks (for field blouse)	4	4
Ankle boots	–	1
Steel helmet	–	1
Steel helmet chin strap	–	1
Waistbelt and buckle	1	1
Haversack	–	1
Ammunition pouches	–	2
Bread bag	–	1
Mess tin	–	1
Eating implements	–	1
Water bottle	–	1
Identity disc	–	1
Blanket	–	1

a) For the staff of service offices in the homeland and in peaceful occupied territories.

b) For units in action.

Nearly all the above articles of clothing were identical to the pattern issued to either the General or Waffen-SS, and so articles will only be described insofar as they differed. Waffen-SS clothing will be exhaustively covered in Volume 6 of this series.

DIENSTROCK

Service tunic

Both the black and field-grey service tunic for leaders and men was identical to those worn by the General SS. Officers' tunics tended to be made of superior cloth, whereas the issue tunics were made of uniform cloth (Einheitstuch) which was similar in colour and quality to that used for army/waffen-SS field uniforms. While officers wore collar cord until the end, other ranks ceased wearing it at the beginning of the war.

DIENSTMANTEL

Service greatcoat

Members of the SD and Sipo tended to wear the General SS pattern field-grey overcoat with the same colour collar which was edged in twisted cord according to rank, although the army/Waffen-SS pattern with dark green collar was also quite common.

In order to put an end to the irregularity in the wearing of collar patches on the greatcoat, the RFSS issued a number of orders:

September 1940. Collar patches will be worn by all members on the greatcoat collar.[1]

June 1942. Collar patches on the greatcoat collar will be worn by:
1. General SS on all greatcoat collars.
2. Waffen-SS on all greatcoat collars with exception of: Leather, rain, guard and field greatcoats.[2]

January 1943. In order to save materials collar patches and cord will no longer be worn on the greatcoat collar.[3]

DIENSTMÜTZEN

Service peaked caps

The black peaked cap was identical to that worn by the General SS. With the introduction of field-grey, field-grey peaked caps were introduced which had white piping for all ranks up to and including SS-Standartenführer.

Despite the introduction of branch of service colours (Waffenfarben), members of the Security Police and SD appear to have continued to wear white, instead of police green piping.

This was possibly due to the rather vague status of the SD as a branch of the General SS, whose standard piping colour was white. With the introduction of police pattern shoulder straps in January 1942, N.C.O.'s with rank of SS-Sturmscharführer in the Security Police and SD were allowed to wear officers' caps, with black velvet band and aluminium chin cord.[4]

1 Erlass des Chefs des SS-Führungsamtes vom 19.9.1940.
2 Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS, No. 11, 1.6.42, p. 00.
3 Ibid., No. 3, 1.2.43, Ziff. 37.
4 Befehlsblatt des Chefs d. Sich. Pol. u.d. SD, No. 2/42, p. 6.

Members of the Security Police search suspects, Poland, September 1939. They are wearing the first model field-grey tunic (Rock) and special lightweight steel helmet.

SS-Sturmscharführer Ackermann. Note the white piping on his officers' cap, and police pattern shoulder straps. (Dodkins Collection.)

SS-Hstuf. Strobel and members of the Maastricht SD, 1941. (Museet voor Oorlogsdocumentatie.)

DIENSTGRADABZEICHEN
Badges of rank

At first members of the SD and Sipo wore the same badges of rank on the collar and shoulder as members of the General SS, but with the introduction of field-grey they began to wear army pattern shoulder straps which had already been adopted by the SS-Verfügungstruppe.

In August 1941 SD and Sipo members were reminded that they could only wear army/waffen-SS shoulder straps if they had police-green* piping.[1]

To prevent members of the SD and Sipo from being mistaken for members of the Waffen-SS, police pattern shoulder straps were introduced in January 1942, for N.C.O's and men. At the same time the wearing of N.C.O's braid on the collar and arm chevrons was forbidden.[2] With the call-up of women for various duties within the Security Police and concentration camp systems, six new ranks were introduced, which were identified by 0.5 cm wide aluminium braid chevrons, which were worn on the lower left sleeve of the jacket and greatcoat, 8 cm from the bottom of the sleeve.[3]

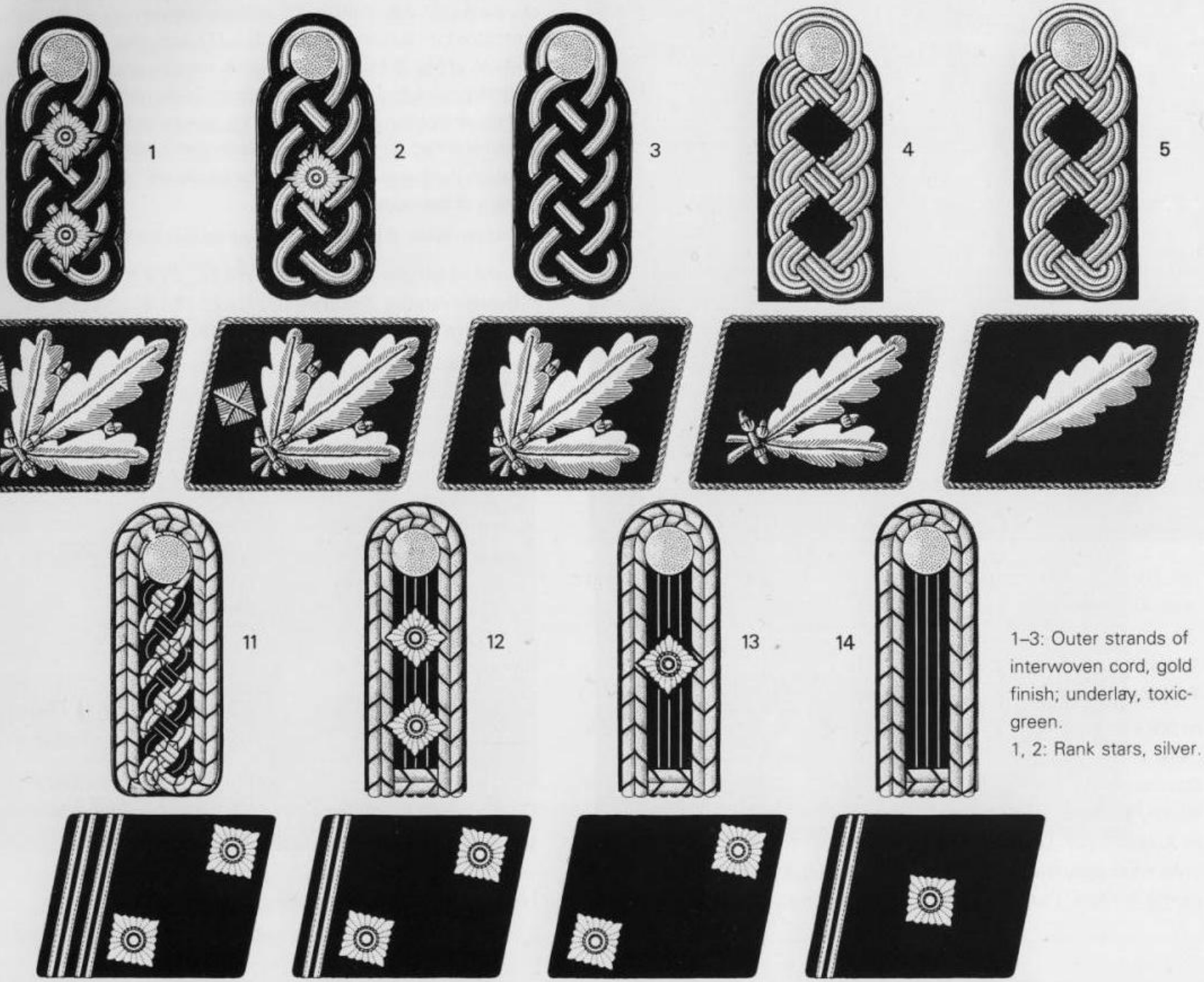
* Polizei-Grün, but often described as Gift-Grün or toxic-green.

[1] Befehlsblatt des ChdSPudSD., No.32., 23.8.41., pp.161-2.
[2] Befehlsblatt des ChdSPudSD., No.2., 17.1.42., pp.5-6.
[3] Befehlsblatt des ChdSPudSD., No.49., 12.10.43., p.321.

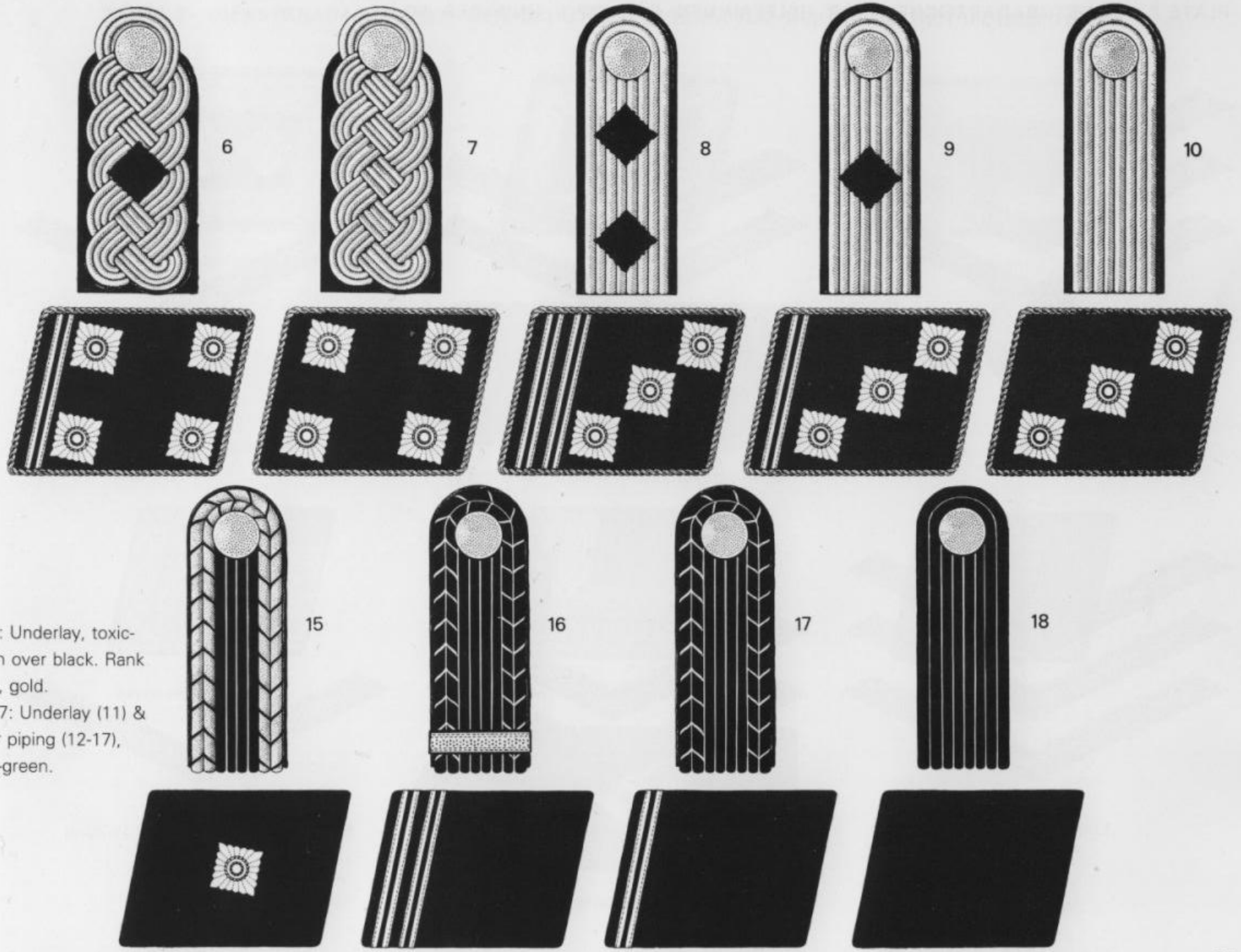
Plate 1 (pp. 38 & 39)

1. SS-Obergruppenführer	Höhere SS-Führer Senior SS leaders
2. SS-Gruppenführer	
3. SS-Brigadeführer	
4. SS-Oberführer	
5. SS-Standartenführer	SS-Führer SS leaders
6. SS-Obersturmbannführer	
7. SS-Sturmbannführer	
8. SS-Hauptsturmführer	
9. SS-Obersturmführer	
10. SS-Untersturmführer	
11. SS-Sturmscharführer	SS-Unterführer mit Portepee Senior non-commissioned leaders
12. SS-Hauptscharführer	
13. SS-Oberscharführer	
14. SS-Scharführer	SS-Unterführer ohne Portepee Junior non-commissioned leaders
15. SS-Unterscharführer	
16. SS-Rottenführer	SS-Männer SS Men
17. SS-Sturmmann	
18. SS-Mann	

PLATE 1 DIENSTGRADABZEICHEN DER SIPO UND DES SD 1942-1945

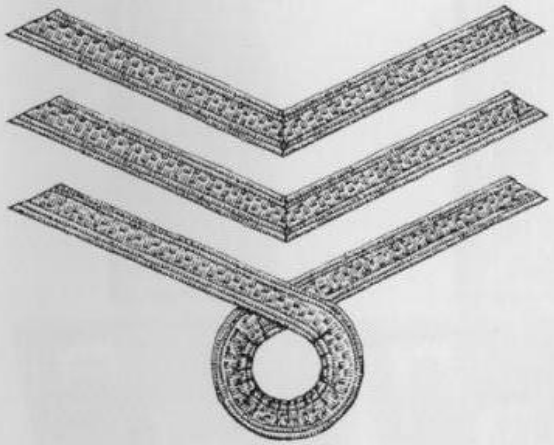


1–3: Outer strands of interwoven cord, gold finish; underlay, toxic-green.
1, 2: Rank stars, silver.

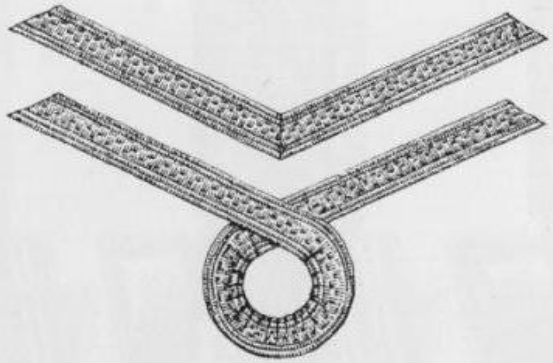


4–10: Underlay, toxic-green over black. Rank stars, gold.
11–17: Underlay (11) & outer piping (12-17), toxic-green.

PLATE 2 DIENSTGRADABZEICHEN DER HELFERINNEN DER SIPO UND DES SD

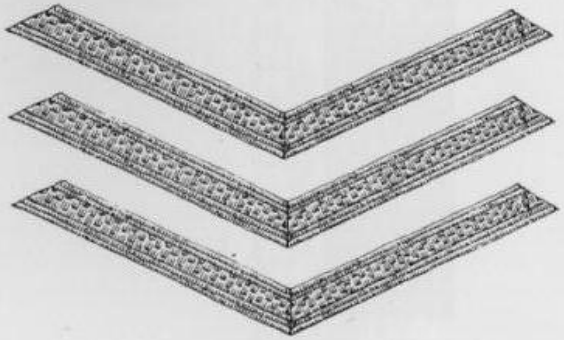


Kriminalrätin

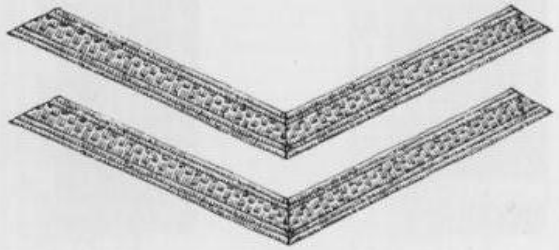


Kriminalkommissarin

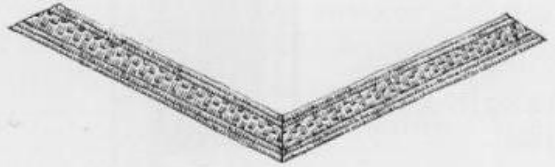
Kriminalobersekretärin



Kriminalsekretärin



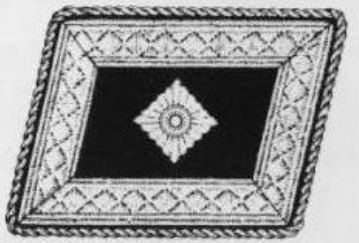
Kriminaloberassistentin



Kriminaloberassistentin zur Prüfung

PLATE 3 DIENSTGRADABZEICHEN DER SCHUTZMANNSCHAFTEN DER SICHERHEITSPOLIZEI 1943-45

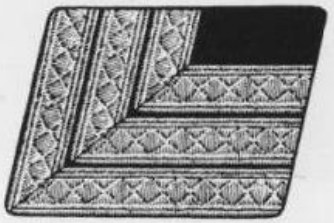
Kapitan



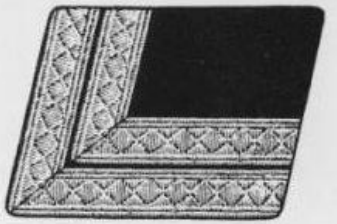
Starschy Leitenant

Leitenant

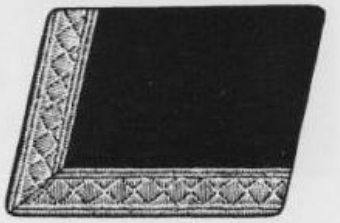
Shoulder strap for commissioned ranks



Kompanie-Feldwebel



Vize-Feldwebel



Korporal

Shoulder strap for non-commissioned ranks

PLATE 4. SICHERHEITSPOLIZEI UND SICHERHEITSDIENST

1. Collar patch for all leaders up to and incl. the rank of SS-Ostubaf.

2. Armbadge for all SS members of the Main Security Office and later all SS members of the Security Service. During the Nuremberg Tribunals much importance was attached to the complicated matter of membership of the SD, Gestapo and Security Police, and whether the membership of one of these organisations automatically meant membership of the others. Relevant to this question was the entitlement to wear the SD badge (Raute). SS-Gruf. Ohlendorf, former chief of RSHA Amt. III stated before the International Military Tribunal on the 3rd January 1946 that the designation SD originally applied to a member of the SD-Hauptamt. When that office was merged with the RSHA there was talk of using a new designation and designing a new rune to be worn on the sleeve, but this did not take place for security reasons.

   Another defendant Dr. Gawlik stated that "in the Eastern Territories all members of the Security Police, even if not members of the SS, wore SS uniform with the SD badge."

   Careful study of photographs of Security Police and SD men shows that a small proportion wore the SD badge, which confirms the fact that while non-SS members wore SS uniform, only SS members of the Security Service and ex-members of the Secret State Police Office were entitled to wear the SD badge.

3 Armbadge for all SS members of the Secret State Police Office (Gestapa) and State Police Stations (Stapostellen) who transferred to the SD.

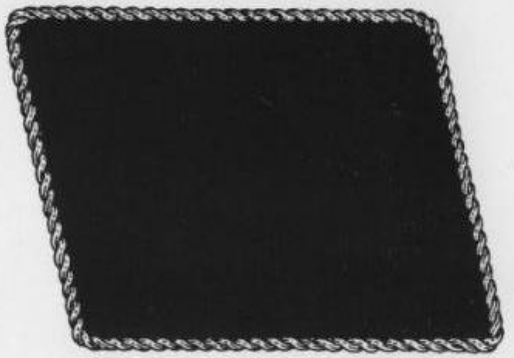
4. Armband for the staff of the Main Security Office.

5. Armband for all ranks on the staff of an SD district (SD-Oberabschnitt), and SD sub-district (SD-Unterabschnitt).

[1-5] RFSS T-175 155/2684890.

[2a] IMT. Vol XXII., p.37.

PLATE 4

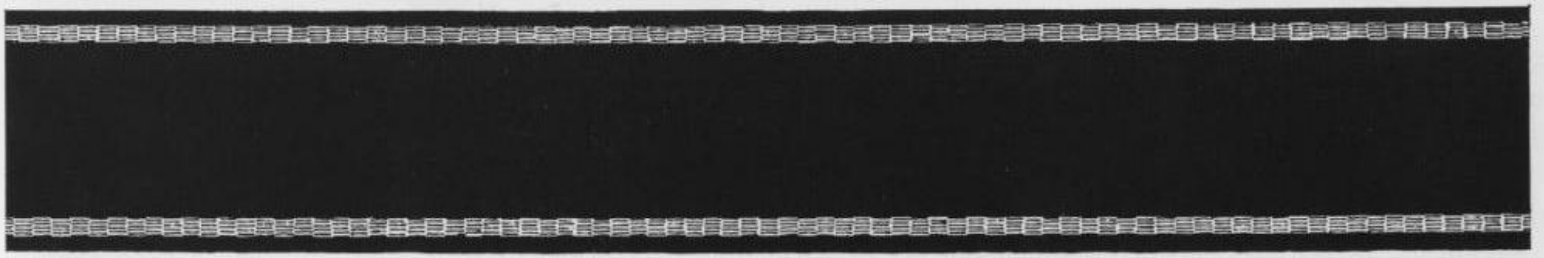


1

2

3

4



5

SEITENWAFFEN
Sidearms

SS Leaders and non-commissioned leaders of the Security Police and SD wore the same sidearms as proscribed for the General SS, which consisted of the SS Service Dagger Mod. 33, & 36. The SS sword and Honour Sword, (See Vol. 1, pp.58 & 59, and Vol. 3, pp.70-74 incl.). In June 1942 the Reichsführer-SS issued the following circular concerning the wearing of daggers and swords in wartime.[1]

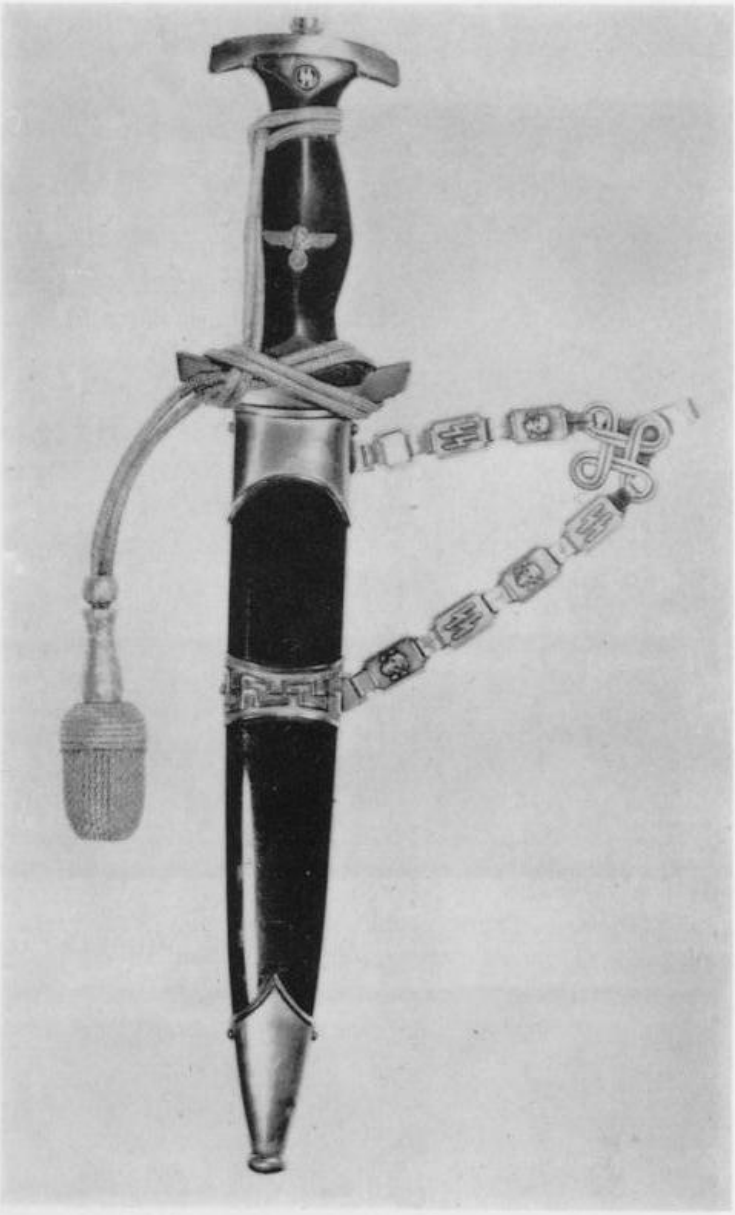
SS-SERVICE SWORDS

RdErl. des RFSSuChdDtPol.i.RMdI. vom 26.6.1942
— S I A 1 a Nr.684/41-351-20b —

1. In the circular dated 25th January 1941—I A 1 a No.68/41—(not published) re. Service Swords, it was stated that Honour Swords will no longer be conferred during the war. It was intended to regulate the wearing of SS Service Swords by a special order. This must be refrained from, however, because in the first place swords can no longer be obtained, until further notice, owing to the steel quota system.
2. There are no objections to the wearing of one's own SS Service Sword with long trousers for walking-out, by SS-Oberscharführer and above. On the other hand the wearing of Police Swords has to be discontinued.
3. Moreover I would point out once again that the SS Service Dagger is, as always, an official SS sidearm, and there is no reason why the SS Service Dagger may not be worn.

To the Security Police and SD.

In August 1942, the Reichsführer forbade the wearing of the SS sword, except on special occasions, for the rest of the war.[2]



SS Officers' M.36 dagger with knot tied in regulation manner.

Tragen des SS-Dienstdolches 36 mit Portepee
RdErl. des ChdSPudSD. vom 4.6.1943
— I A 1 a Nr.172/43 —

The wearing of the SS Service Dagger Mod. 1936 with knot.

1. SS Leaders of the Security Police and SD may for the rest of the war wear the Mod. 36 SS Service Dagger with army knot, when wearing long trousers.
2. The dagger is worn suspended from under the left hip pocket flap of the tunic or greatcoat.
3. The knot is tied as shown in the following photograph.
4. The dagger and knot must be obtained personally and may be purchased from the SS Clothing Counter (SS-Kleiderkasse), Berlin-Wilmersdorf, Kaiserallee 12.
5. The Reichsführer-SS has forbidden the wearing of the dagger with breeches, and orders that any SS leader who violates this order, will be sentenced, according to the disciplinary code, to three days strict confinement to quarters.
6. After dark SS leaders will wear a pistol, even if wearing long trousers.

To Security Police and SD.

1. Befehlsblatt des Chefs d.Sich.Pol.u.d.SD. Nr.29/42., p.173.
2. Verordnungsblatt der Waffen-SS., 15.8.42., Ziff 280., p.65.

APPENDIX 1

DRESS REGULATIONS FOR THE SECURITY POLICE

RdErl. des RFSSuChdDtPol.i.RMdI. vom 9.1.1943
— S II C2³ Nr.9863/42-313-1 —

The following dress regulations for the Security Police assimilate all regulations hitherto in force for the different sections and service ranks concerning the provision of clothing. In order to simplify the administrative work involved in claiming service clothing both in the Reich and in occupied territories, SS leaders will receive a service clothing allowance for the procurement and maintenance of their uniform, while non-commissioned officers and men will be issued free of charge with their service clothing from Reich stocks.

To Security Police and SD Order sheet page 127

DRESS REGULATIONS FOR THE SECURITY POLICE

In agreement with the Reichs-Minister of Finance I decree the following for the provision of the Security Police with service clothing:

1. Scope.

(1) The Dress Regulations apply to all members of the Security police (Secret State Police incl. Border Police and Criminal Police who according to the 2nd para. (Ziff) have a claim to service clothing.

(2) Members of the Security Police in the meaning of these regulations includes replacement and auxilliary forces, Security Police auxilliaries and interpreters, if in uniform, with or without badges of rank.

(3) The service offices (Dienststellen) in the meaning of these regulations are the Reichs Security Main Office, the commanders, inspectors, officials and leaders of the Security Police and SD, the State Police offices and the Criminal Police offices, the schools and Special Action Groups of the Security Police.

(4) For the replacement and auxilliary forces who are not provided with service clothing, one will apply Para 19. Sect. 1. No.2a)-c) of the decree of 1.7.1942-page 11 C 1 No.3197/12-281-13.

2. Entitlement to service clothing

(1) One shall provide with service clothing:

A. In Reich territory

(a) The office chiefs, group leaders and experts in the RSHA.

(b) Inspectors of the Security Police and SD incl. their adjutants and Legal officers, if they are civil servants (Reichsbeamte) or their employees.

(c) Leaders of the State Police offices, their representatives as well as leaders of the departments (Abteilungen) of administration, internal politics and counter-espionage.

(d) Leaders of the Criminal Police offices.

(e) Commanders, instructors and regular personnel of the schools of the Security Police.

(f) Officials and male employees in the State Police and Criminal Police offices in the incorporated Eastern Territories, if they have been accepted into the SS or are SS applicants in the context of the decree of 3.6.42-Ia Ia No.95/41 VIII (not published).

(g) Officials and male employees who are permanently employed in:

the Frontier Police service.
the labour training camps for men.
the prisoner-of-war camps and,
the Protection Service (Schutzdienst), if necessary.

(h) Male and female officials and employees in:

the police prison supervisory service
the labour training camps for women
the youth protection camps for minors.

(i) Male officials and employees in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.

(k) Male officials and employees incl. female signals auxiliaries, officials and employees in the police prison supervisory service attached to service offices in the General Government.

In the case of uniform wearers listed under (a)-(e), SS membership is a condition for the wearing of service clothing.

B. Outside Reich territory

(a) Male officials and employees as well as female signals auxilliaries and the female officials and employees in the police supervisory service attached to service offices in the occupied territories of Norway, Netherlands, Belgium, France, Balkans, Ukraine and Africa, and in the territories still to be occupied by the armed forces in future.

(b) Police attaches and liason officers as well as German officials and employees of their service offices.

(c) Service clothing will be provided free of charge to members of the SD during service outside Reich territory—except in the territories of Alsace, Loraine, Luxembourg and in the region of Bialystok.

C. In Alsace, Loraine, Luxembourg, Lower Styria, Upper Ukraine and in the region of Bialystok

all male officials and employees incl. female signals auxilliaries and female officials and employees in the prison service of the security police.

(2) For all other members of the Security Police, whose provision with uniform is necessary for service reasons, authorisation is to be applied for in the individual case through the competent office in the RSHA.

(3) If in the individual case of physical or other unsuitability for the wearing of service clothing by a member of the Security Police, the service office chief can order him to be provided with civilian clothing.

3. Service clothing

The service clothing for male members of the Security Police is the field-grey SS service uniform. The service clothing in the context of these regulations includes articles of clothing listed in Appendix I, hereinafter called "service clothing". Special regulations for the cut and make-up of articles of service clothing will be issued. Special regulations for service clothing for females will follow.

4. Extent of provision of service clothing

The provision of service clothing will be effected according to appendix (Anlage) 1. Drivers will be issued with special clothing, and for special duties additional clothing and equipment will be issued, free of charge, from Reich stocks.

5. Procurement

The central clothing supply (Die zentrale Bekleidungswirtschaft) in the Security Police will still be maintained because allocations for raw materials and completed goods of every kind are made through the central authorities in Berlin. The procurement of all clothing and equipment, including sports clothing is therefore effected by the procurement office of the Security Police at RSHA in Berlin. The remaining service offices of the Security Police will only effect procurement if ordered or authorised to do so by RSHA. The booking of reciepts and outgoings are subject to the Reich police accounts and budget.

6. Clothing supply offices

(1) As clothing supply offices I appoint

A. In Reich territory

(a) The Reich Main Security Office (Clothing supply office Berlin) for civil servants and employees in RSHA and with the Inspector of the Security Police and SD in Berlin, for the State Police Office Berlin, the Criminal Police Office Berlin, and State Police office Potsdam.

(b) The schools of the Security Police.

(c) The State Police Offices including all members of the Security Police listed in their budget and for members of the Criminal Police Offices in their region.

(d) The commanders of the Security Police and SD in the General Government.

B. Outside Reich Territory

(a) The economic offices (Wirtschaftsstellen) of the commanding officer (BdS), and his deputies and commanders (KdS) and all members (Secret State Police, Criminal Police and SD) of their service offices and attached service offices.

(b) The Special Action Groups of the Security Police as long as they have not established static economic offices.

C. In Alsace, Loraine, Luxembourg, Lower Styria, Upper Ukraine and in the region of Bialystok

(a) The budget offices (Kassenschlagstellen) in Alsace, Loraine, Luxembourg and in the region of Bialystock.

(b) The economic offices in Lower Styria and Upper Ukraine.

(2) The clothing supply offices conduct their clothing budget independently in their own territories. They are responsible for the administration of stocks, the handling of monies allocated to them and the timely application for replacement supplies.

(3) Each clothing supply office appoints an administrative official to deal with the clothing budget. On request this official is to be provided with the necessary personnel.

7. Assimilation of service ranks

SS ranks are fixed by the Decrees of the ChdSPudSD. of 1.7.1941 —IA 1a No.79/41—of 1.4.1942—IA 1a No.114/42—and of 19.6.42 —IA 1a No.114/421.

8. SS and uniform pass

(1) The issue of service clothing will only be made on presentation of an SS or uniform pass.

(2) The issue of uniform passes is regulated by the Decree of the ChdSPudSD of the 1.4.1942—IA 1a Nr.114/42 (see appendix 3).

Paragraph 9 dealing with cash allowances for SS leaders has been omitted.

10. Provision of SS Non-commissioned leaders and men with clothing.

(1) SS non-commissioned leaders and men recieve free clothing and equipment. Replacement clothing is only provided if the articles already issued have become unusable. There is no entitlement to the issue of new articles of clothing and equipment as replacements, but they must be usable. During the war the wearing period laid down in

Appendix 1 is only for guidance. The issue of replacements is subject in each case to the actual condition of the article of clothing worn hitherto. The decision as to whether an article of clothing or equipment is still wearable, is to be taken by the person in charge of clothing unless the decision is taken by the chief of the service office himself.

(2) In order to simplify book-keeping clothing accounts for SS N.C.O's and men will no longer be kept. The service clothing is to be listed in a clothing register (Paragraph 13).

(3) The foregoing rules also apply to female uniform wearers.

Paragraphs 11 to 17 dealing with clothing accounts and allowances have been omitted.

18. The checking of service clothing

Every time duty is commenced, the service clothing is to be inspected as to its cleanliness and fit. In addition, the service clothing is to be inspected at the service offices at least quarterly as to its condition and completeness. The inspection is to be carried out by the service office chief or managing official. The official in charge of clothing is to be called in on each occasion so that any defects that are found can be remedied at once.

19. Cleaning and repairs

(1) Uniform wearers are obliged to take care of their service clothing and to have necessary repairs made in good time.

(2) SS Leaders are obliged to have repairs to their service clothing carried out themselves. The cost may, if it exceeds the sum of 10.-RM, be refunded on presentation of the accounts to the clothing supply office. The amount of the account is to be entered in the clothing account as a debit.

(3) The repair of service clothing for SS N.C.O's and men will be carried out free of charge in the workshops at the clothing supply office. If there is no workshop, corresponding prices are to be agreed with private firms. The costs incurred are to be the liability of the Reich pay office (Reichskasse). The establishment of workshops requires the consent of the RSHA.

Paragraph 20 dealing with prices for losses and purchases, Paragraph 21, with uniform worn by a corpse for burial (Totenkleid), paragraph 22 with rejection of clothing and equipment, and paragraph 23 dealing with disoposal of old clothing and equipment, have been omitted.

24. The wearing of civilian clothing

No compensation will be allowed for the wearing of civilian clothing on duty.

Paragraph 25 dealing with various financial matters has been omitted.

26. The suspension of regulations

The following regulations are hereby suspended:

(a) Decree of the RFSS etc. of 16.2.1940—SIE 2 No. 8823/39—concerning service clothing for members of the Security Police in the new Eastern Territories as well as in Bohemia and Moravia (not published).

(b) Decree of the RFSS etc. of 26.3.1940—SIE 2 No. 8823/39—concerning executive provisions to the regulations on service clothing of members of the Security Police in the new Eastern territories as well as in Bohemia and Moravia (not published).

(c) Decree of the RFSS etc. of 7.5.1940—SIE 2 No. 15866/10—concerning the charging and reimbursement of allowances for long boots and brown shirts (not published).

(d) Decree of the RFSS etc. of 13.9.1940 and 16.1.1941—SIE a 2^5 No. 17028/40—concerning compensation for wearing of long boots and brown shirts. (not published).

(e) Decree of the RFSS etc. of 17.6.1941—S II C 2^5 No. 7606/41-314-9—concerning clothing subsidies, service clothing allowances and procurement of articles of clothing and equipment for SS leaders appointed police officers in the Security Police (not published).

(f) Decree of the RFSS etc. of 27.1.1942—S II C 2 No. 8140/41-319-3. Quote.—concerning the clothing account (Kleiderkassenordnung)

of the Frontier Police of the Secret State Police (see Order Sheet p.21.).

(g) Decree of the RFSS etc. of 23.3.1942—S II C 2 No. 8419/42—concerning the destruction of articles of service clothing in the case of infectious diseases (see Order Sheet p.103.).

27. Entry into force

These regulations will take effect from the 1st April 1942.

APPENDIX 1

Issuing schedule for service clothing to members of the Security Police.

Quantity Offs.	Men.	item	wearing period	remarks
1	1	Peaked cap	12 months	
1	1	Field cap	12 months	only in special cases
1	1	Winter cap, like ski cap	12 months	
1	1	Tunic	10 months	in uniform cloth (Einheitstuch)
1	1	Breeches or trousers	8 months	
1	1	Greatcoat	30 months	
1	–	Raincoat	30 months	
1	1	Drill tunic	12 months	
1	1	Drill trousers	12 months	
2	2	Brown shirts	6 months	
2	2	Black ties	6	
1	1	Pr. boots or lace-up ankle boots	17 months 23 months	
1	–	Pr. field-grey leather gloves	18 months	
1	1	Belt and buckle	36	

Remarks:

Issue in accordance with the above schedule will only take place if existing stocks permit. Further articles of clothing and equipment for active duty will be made available free of charge from Reich stocks.

APPENDIX 2

The Chief of the Security Police
and SD

I A 1 a Nr.79/41 Berlin, 1st July 1941.

Express letter

To the

Offices, departments and experts of the RSHA., Distributor C.
Commanding officers (BdS), Inspectors (1dS) and Commanders (KdS) of the Security Police and SD.
State Police offices
Criminal Police offices and sections
SD sections
Frontier Inspectors I-III
Officer School of the Security Police in Berlin-Charlottenburg
Security Police School in Fürstenberg
Frontier Police School in Pretsch
SD Schools in Bernau and Fulda
Deputies of the Chief of the Security Police and SD in Paris and Brussels.

Re: Acceptance of members of the Security Police into the SS and rank parity for SS men of the Security Police and SD.

The Decree of 23.6.1938—S V 3 No. 72/38—(MB1iV.P.1089) and of 26.3.1940—S I E 2 No. 8823/39—(not published) are superseded. In their place one will apply the conditions in the appendix. This is a question of a new decree concerning the acceptance and rank parity of members of the Security Police and SD, which the Reichsführer-SS intends to approve after the end of the war, but which is to be introduced experimentally in the meantime.

In order to eliminate any obscurities created by the partly contradictory provisions of the decrees that have been in force hitherto, I order that the provisions of the new rank parity decree, that have been put into force experimentally, must be carried out with effect from the 15th July 1941, by all service offices of the Security Police and SD. After the

15th July 1941 no member of the Security Police and SD may wear badges of rank other than those to which he is entitled according to the attached provisions.

The new provisions also extend to those cases in which uniform wearers must now apply lower badges of rank by virtue of previous regulations or because of the wrong interpretation of previous regulations.

All service office chiefs are responsible for the strict performance of this decree. Applications for exceptional rulings will be of no avail.

Appendix to 1 A 1a Nr.79/41

Acceptance of members of the Security Police into the SS and rank parity for SS men of the Security Police and SD.

With the object of merging members of the German police into the SS of the NSDAP to form a uniformly structured State Protection Corps for the National Socialist Reich, I order the following:

I (1) Members of the Security Police may on application be accepted into the SS of the NSDAP provided that:

1. They fulfill general SS conditions.
2. (a) They have been members of the NSDAP or its organisations (SA, NSKK, HJ) up to 30th January 1933 inclusive; this provision to be unaffected by subsequent honourable discharge
   or
   (b) have been aiding members of the SS from a date prior to 30th January 1930,
   or
   (c) have served for at least three years in the Security Police under RFSS command and have proved themselves satisfactory.

(2) I reserve to myself the right to authorise the acceptance of a further category of persons.

(3) Acceptance according to the ordinary conditions is not affected by this decree.

II (1) Acceptance into the SS usually takes place according to the Police rank.

(2) Members of the SD Main Office may be promoted to an SS rank corresponding to their SD appointment, unless their work is only of temporary duration.

(3) Security Police employees may be incorporated into the SS with SS rank corresponding to their civil service grade.

(4) Rank parity* promotions take place from case to case. Merit according to work and age is the condition for each rank parity promotion. The first rank parity promotion requires a minimum probationary service period of 6 months with the Security Police and SD, unless the assimilant has held corresponding rank in the SA, NSKK or NSFK.

(5) The decision as to the SS rank of office chiefs, commanding officers (BdS), inspectors (1dS) and leaders (Leiter), especially of important sections in the RSHA, will be made from case to case.

(6) SS promotions beyond the framework of the following provisions may only be made in extraordinary cases, in acknowledgment of special achievements. If members of the Security Police and SD have been promoted to higher SS rank by the publication of these provisions, then let it be so.

III (1) For the equivalent ranks in the case of Security Police officials, see opposite.

Dienstgrade der Kriminalpolizei Criminal Police ranks	**Dienstgrade der Polizeiverwaltungsbeamten** Police administrative officials ranks	**Dienstgrade der SS** SS ranks
	Amtsgehilfe Botenmeister Hausmeister	SS-Unterscharführer
apl. Kriminalassistent	apl. Polizeiassistent	SS-Scharführer
Kriminalassistent	Polizeiassistent Polizeigefängnisoberwachtmeister	SS-Oberscharführer
Krim.-Ob.-Ass.	Polizeigefängnishauptwachtmeister	SS-Hauptscharführer
Kriminalsekretär	Polizeisekretär Kanzleisekretär	SS-Sturmscharführer bis Obersturmführer
Krim.-Ob.-Sekretär Hilfs-Krim.-Komm. Krim.-Komm. zPr.	Pol.-Ob.-Sekretär techn. Obersekretär apl. Pol.-Inspektor	SS-Untersturmführer
Krim.-Inspektor Kriminalkommissar	Ministerialregistrator Pol.-inspektor (auch mit Zulage) Assessor	SS-Obersturmführer
Krim.-Komm. mit mehr als 3 Dienstjahren Krim.-Rat	Pol.-Ob.-Inspektor Reg.-Assessor Pol.-Rat Amtmann	SS-Hauptsturmführer
Krim.-Rat mit mehr als 3 Dienstjahren Krim.-Direktor Regierungs- und Krim.-Rat	Pol.-Rat mit mehr als 3 Dienstjahren Amtmann mit mehr als 3 Dienstjahren Amtsrat Regierungsrat	SS-Sturmbannführer
Ob.-Reg. u. Krim.-Rat	Ob.-Reg.-Rat Oberstleutnant der Polizei	SS-Obersturmbannführer
Reg.- und Krim.-Direktor Reichskriminaldirektor	Reg.-Direktor Ministerialrat Oberst der Polizei	SS-Standartenführer

APPENDIX 3

The Chief of Security Police
and SD

I A 1a. Nr. 111/12 Berlin, 1st April 1942

To all

Service offices of the Security Police and SD

— Distributor D —

Re: Application of the service rank parity decree of 1.7.1941—I A 1a No. 79/41—on the clothing of members of the Security Police who have not yet been accepted into the SS.

Ref: Decree of 1.7.1941—I A 1a No. 79/41 together with appendix.
Decree of 4.7.1941—I A 1a No. 79/41 (Correction).

The service rank parity decree of 1.7.1941—Ia 1a No. 79/41—has since its promulgation formed the basis for clothing, according to rank, of those men whose acceptance in the SS has not yet taken place, but who, for service reasons need to wear uniform, especially on active service. In order to put an end to the improper practice operated before the promulgation of the decree both in the SS assimilation of officials accepted into the SS, and above all in the clothing, according to rank, of non-SS members, it was further decreed that no member of the Security Police should after 15th July 1941 wear any SS badges of rank other than those laid down in the assimilation decree. In spite of this clear hint it was observed again and again that in numerous front service offices (Einsatzdienststellen), higher badges of rank were being worn, than authorised. For the last time I am now asking for the strict observance of the decree of the 1st July 1941 and am at the same time compelled to issue the following conditions for the clothing, in so far as it is necessary for service reasons, of non-SS members.

This circular decree is going to all service offices of the Security Police and SD, as it is an executive provision relating to the service rank parity decree.

Further executive provisions relating to the assimilation promotions of SS members will follow shortly.

Badges of rank for uniformed members of the Security Police who are not members of the SS.

The wartime use of the Security Police has made it necessary, to a large extent, to uniform non-SS members. By individual order it was decreed from time to time that members of the Security Police should wear the field-grey SS uniform—especially in foreign service. Entitlement to wear SS badges of rank was given by the issue of provisional SS passes. These provisional passes will lose their validity on the 1st June 1942, and are then to be collected by the service offices and returned to the issuing office.

With effect from the 1st June 1942 uniform passes will be introduced for Security Police uniform wearers who are not SS members, which will only be valid in conjunction with the service pass of the Security Police or SD.

Uniform passes with reasonable individual applications are to applied for without delay, as follows:

(a) For commissioned ranks exclusively from RSHA—Ref. I A 5—.

(b) For non-commissioned leaders and men from RSHA—Ref. I A 5—.

(c) For non-commissioned leaders and men of the service offices on Reich territory from the competent inspectors (IdS).

(d) For non-commissioned leaders and men of the Special Action Groups from the competent commanding officers (BdS) and the chiefs of the Special Action Groups.

The necessary number of uniform passes is being sent to the Special Action Group chiefs, as well as the commanding officers (BdS) in Belgrade, The Hague, Cracow, Metz, Oslo, Prague and Strassbourg, the deputies (Beauftragten) in France and Belgium (Service offices Paris and Brussels), the Inspector (IdS) in Salzburg as well as the commanders (KdS) in Marburg and Veldes and the rest of the inspectors.

Members of the Security Police who are posted to Foreign service must first be issued with the uniform pass.

On issue of the uniform pass SS badges of rank will be determined in accordance with the service rank parity decree. However, this determination will generally only be undertaken up to a service rank lower than is provided for by the parity decree for assimilated promotions of SS members. For example, a secretary not belonging to the SS, may at the most wear the badges of rank of an SS-Hauptscharführer. Exceptions can only be considered if material interests make a higher service rank absolutely necessary.

In the case of appointment and promotion of officials or employees to a higher grade, higher SS rank is only to be applied after the competent office has issued the corresponding uniform pass.

The SS rank for an official or employee with officers' rank will, without exception, be determined in each individual case by the RSHA—Ref. I A 5—in the case of the issue of the uniform pass.

The inspectors (IdS) and commanding officers (BdS) are hereby instructed to report by the 1st June 1942 on the strict performance of this order in the service offices of their zone.

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ERRATA & ADDENDA (Second Edition)

Page 2 Left column, line 4: for 'followed' read 'following'. Right column, lines 10-11: should read 'which with a staff of 607 officials and employees by mid-1936 had become...'
Line 15: should read 'of the NSDAP'.

Page 3 In March 1973 I was informed by a collector that he knew of the existence of a cuff-band 'Kriminalpolizei', although no information confirming the existence of such a band has come my way in the meantime.
Left column, line 3: should read '(Sicherheitshauptamt)'.
Right column, line 3: for 'with' read 'and'.

Page 4 Left column, line 4: for 'Pol.' read 'Polizei'.

Page 12 Line 9: for 'battalions' read 'battalion'.
Line 11: for 'battalions' read 'companies'.

Page 13 Footnote 3, line 2: for 'Armelstreifens' read 'Armelstreifen'.

Page 14 Caption: the officer shaking hands with Himmler has been variously identified as SS-Hauptsturmführer Dirr or Körber.

Page 20 Line 11: for 'Slowakia' read 'Slovakia'.

Page 21 Right column, line 1: for 'Pleninpotentiary' read 'Plenipotentiary'.

Page 23 Heading should read 'SELBSTSCHUTZ-VEREINE'.

Page 24 Left column, 'UNIFORMS'. There exists in a German collection a cuff-band 'Selbstschutz'. The inscription is machine embroidered in silver-grey Latin script on a black woven band with aluminium stripes, but does not appear to be of standard German manufacture.
Right column, 'SONDERDIENST DER GENERALGOUVERNEMENTS'. Further particulars are now available. The order for the formation of a Special Service (Verordnung über die Errichtung Eines Sonderdienstes) dated 6 May came into effect on 11 May 1940. Its primary role was the undertaking of 'technical administrative duties' (Aufgaben Verwaltungstechnischer Natur) under the sphere of competence of the German District Heads (Kreishauptmanns) in the part of occupied Poland known as the General Government. It was subordinated to Section IV of the Main Interior Administration of the General Government, whose governor was Dr. Hans Frank. It was to be recruited from ethnic Germans between the ages of 18 and 40.
The SS did not approve of Frank's attempts to build a 'private army' out of the former Selbstschutz; and as the Sonderdienst expanded to include a replacement battalion, a leadership school and an Intendantur a conflict developed between Himmler's staff and that of the General Governor. The eventual outcome of this dispute was the incorporation of the Sonderdienst in the Ordnungspolizei. On 1 October 1942 SS-Obergruppenführer und General der Polizei Krüger reported to the Kommandostab RFSS that the absorption of the Sonderdienst by the Ordnungspolizei had begun, and that the recruiting officer in Posen was mustering all suitable members for the Waffen-SS.
Uniform: The original uniform of the Sonderdienst was that of the Selbstschutz and Ordnungsdienst, which consisted in general of a dark blue or black cap, tunic, breeches and greatcoat of Polish origin. Equipment and weapons were either Polish or obsolete German types. There were no special insignia or badges of rank, but armbands with printed inscriptions are known to have existed. Paragraph 4 of the 6 May 1940 order specified uniforms and weapons of a special pattern. On the left cuff members were to wear a red armband/cuff-band with black inscription 'Generalgouvernement Polen Sonderdienst' in two lines. However, photographic evidence suggests that this cuff-band was replaced by a black one bearing the same inscription in white or silver-grey.
The black or dark blue uniforms were replaced by field-grey ones with black collar, collar patches and cap band with white piping. Special insignia consisted of cap badge, collar patches, shoulder straps, armbadge and belt buckle. At some time between April 1941 and April 1942 the cuff-band was replaced by an armbadge. On 21 April 1942 Dr. Frank presented a colour (swastika flag) to the Sonderdienst. He handed it over to an ensign wearing a German steel helmet with special decals, a gorget (unfortunately only the chain is visible in the photograph of this ceremony) and the armbadge.

Notes: See Gutachen des Instituts für Zeitgeschichte, Selbstverlag, München, 1958.

Page 27 Left column, line 26: the wartime uniform of the Soviet Police (or Militia) was grey, not dark blue.
Right column, line 6: an original example in the author's collection has collar, pocket flaps and cuffs in Red Army khaki material.

Page 28 The missing reference at Note 1 is Microfilm Series RFSS T-175 140/7855. SS and Polizeiführer Weisruthenien to HSSPF. Riga, dated 13 June 1942.

Page 32 *Notes*: Delete existing Note 3 and replace by: His real name was Rodionov; Gil was his nom-de-guerre.
I have been unable to recover the missing Note 6.

Page 41 Plate 3: I have been informed of the existence of a photograph showing a collar patch which may form part of this series; it has a single row of aluminium lace placed centrally and parallel to the top and bottom edges of the collar patch.